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Mobilizing the Illinois Spirit for the Civil War

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MOBILIZING THE ILLINOIS SPIRIT
FOR THE
CIVIL WAR

BY
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V I T A

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From 1941 to 1945 he was engaged in teaching in the elementary and high schools of Cook County. Inducted into the United States Army in February, 1945 and subsequently served overseas as a non-commissioned officer of Education in the Army of the United States in the Pacific Theater, namely the Philippines, Korea, and Japan. Mustered out of service December, 1946, he returned to teaching and was appointed elementary school principal.

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Introduction

This study has been undertaken to show to what extent the martial spirit was mobilized and instilled in the citizens of Illinois. No study examined has done what is proposed in this one: namely, to discuss the Mobilizing of Illinois Spirit in the Civil War.

Statement of the Problem:- It is the purpose of this study to (1) show the sturdy character of the people of Illinois, (2) to show their intelligent patriotic response to the call to colors in 1861, (3) to show that the State of Illinois was well prepared by previous happenings and legislation to do its part in winning the war against the southern states, (4) to point to the many outstanding men of the nation who were citizens of Illinois and to show that they helped mould the spirit of the people for patriotic service.

Importance of the Study:- It is well to keep alive the spirit of patriotism in a people, to recall to the citizens of a state what they have accomplished in past generations, not that they may rest on their laurels but that they may be inspired to go forward to newer and better acts of leadership and patriotic endeavor, not always, to be sure, in the service of a battle but on that greater battlefield of every day living on a high plane, hence, this contribution to the effort of the people of our state today.

CHAPTER I

CONSTITUTIONAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ETHNIC, AND MORAL FACTORS WHICH WENT INTO THE MAKING OF THE SPIRIT OF ILLINOIS.

1. Illinois admitted as a free state in 1818.:- On January 16, 1818, Mr. Nathaniel Pope, the Illinois delegate in Congress, presented to the House of Representatives a petition from the territorial legislature asking for state government and admission to the Union, and this petition was referred to a committee, of which Mr. Pope was chairman. He soon reported a bill "to enable the people of Illinois territory to form a constitution and state government and for the admission of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states."¹ Few amendments were made, and there was little opposition to the bill, which after being passed by both houses was signed by President Monroe April 18, 1818.

This enabling act gave to the people the right to form a state constitution. The only conditions imposed by Congress with regard to the form of the government were that it must be republican in form and not in conflict with the Ordinance of 1787 except in the matters of boundaries. The journal of the convention has been lost, but the most exciting debate was probably on the subject of slavery. A compromise was finally adopted providing that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall hereafter

1 HOUSE JOURNAL, 15th Congress, 1st session, 151, 174.

be introduced into this State."²

2. The Ordinance of 1787 prohibits slavery.:- This ordinance plainly prohibited slavery, yet there was a clause in the ordinance that was interpreted without much show of reason to allow the French in Illinois still to hold their slaves and their slaves' descendants in servitude, as they had done since 1722 under the successive rule of France, England, and Virginia. The Northwest Ordinance was further violated in 1807 when the territorial legislature of Indiana (which then included Illinois) passed an act making indentured servitude legal.

By this law a person bringing slaves into the territory had to take them, within thirty days, before the clerk of the court, and, if the slaves were willing, have an indenture or contract between the slaves and himself entered upon record, with the specified time the slaves were to serve. This term of service was sometimes fixed at ninety-nine years. The descendants of the slaves were also to serve until they were about thirty years old. But if the slaves refused to enter into such an agreement, their master had to remove them from the state within sixty days. Under this provision slavery increased.³

3. The Illinois constitution of 1818 prohibited slavery.:- The Illinois constitution of 1818 prohibited the future introduction of slavery, but

2 Greene, Evarts B., The Government of Illinois and Its History and Administration. MacMillan Co., London:, Ltd., 1904, 22, 23.

3 Moses, John, Illinois Historical and Statistical, Fergus Printing Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1892, I., 349.

recognized indentured servitude and left the slaves in their previous condition. The children of indentured servants, however, were to be set free at the age of twenty-one, if males, or eighteen if females.⁴

Illinois was admitted as a free state, only after the most serious objection from the slave-holding element. To satisfy those who had been defeated, the first general assembly, whose members had been largely reared in slave-holding communities, passed severe and stringent black laws such as were usually enacted in slave states to prevent a servile uprising. For example, no negro could reside in the state without showing a certificate of his freedom and every black or mulatto without such a certificate of his freedom was subject to arrest as a runaway slave and was to be advertised and sold, if not claimed. Any slave or servant found ten miles from home without permit was liable to arrest and thirty-five stripes from the lash. There was a long list of offenses punishable by the lash. To harbor a runaway slave was made a felony.⁵

4. Slavery sentiment:- Most of the settlers had come from southern states, and consequently many of them were in favor of slavery and were anxious to make Illinois a slave state. Some of them even went so far as to petition Congress to annul the Ordinance of 1787 as unconstitutional. About this time, the entire nation soon became engaged in an angry contest over the question of admitting Missouri as a free or slave state. The excitement had not subsided at the time of the second general election in Illinois in 1822. Although the subject of slavery was not mentioned, yet everyone felt

4 Ibid., I, 351.

5 A. Davidson and B. Stuve, A Complete History of Illinois, 1673-1873, Illinois Journal Co., Springfield, Illinois, 1874. 328.

that the "question was in the air."⁶

In 1821 Missouri was admitted as a slave state and many emigrants from Kentucky and Virginia were pouring through Illinois into it. As they passed they pretended to regret the short-sighted policy of Illinois that excluded them from purchasing land and settling here with their slaves. Many of those who had lands and farms to sell, when they saw the roads crowded with these emigrants and their long lines of teams and slaves, began to envy the good fortune of Missouri. And so it happened that the sentiment in favor of slavery grew, and at the second election for governor it became the silent though real issue.

5. Friends of slavery attempt to make Illinois a slave state.:- The anti-slavery party nominated for governor a young Virginian, Edward Coles. Impressed with the advantages of Illinois, he came here and brought his slaves with him, only to free them and give each family 160 acres of Illinois land. Two proslavery candidates were running against him. One of them had entered in the race for the sole object of diverting votes from the popular candidate Edward Coles. But this served only to divide the proslavery vote, and when the election was over it was found that Coles had won. The proslavery men elected all the rest of the ticket and had control of both houses of the legislature.

⁶ Moses, I, page 364.

In his inaugural address Coles gave slavery a prominent place, and earnestly recommended its abolition from Illinois. He strongly recommended that the "Black" laws be repealed, and that the slaves of the French settlers be no longer held in bondage. The committee to whom this portion of the address was referred presented a majority and a minority report. The minority recommended the abolition of slavery, while the majority report recommended that the people of the state at the next general election vote for or against a convention to amend the constitution. Their purpose was to make Illinois a slave state. A determined effort was made to break down the barrier against slavery. In 1823, the legislature passed and submitted to the people a resolution calling for a convention to amend the constitution. The resolution was as follows: "Resolved, That the general assembly of the State of Illinois (two thirds there-of concurring therein), do recommend to the electors at the next election for the members of the general assembly to vote for or against a convention, agreeably to the seventh article of the constitution."⁷ It was known that in the senate the resolution would easily pass, but in the house one vote was lacking to give the constitutional two-thirds majority.

To secure this one vote, Nicholas Hansen, an antislavery member was unseated, and John Shaw a proslavery man was seated in his stead. The vote was then taken, and the call for a convention passed amid great rejoicing. Fortunately the anti-slavery party had a strong leader in Governor Edward Coles.⁸

7 Ibid., 368.

8 Ibid., 369.

6. The slavery controversy, 1823-1824.:- Now began one of the most important campaigns, that was ever waged in this country. The abolitionists rightly opposed the convention, for they saw that if it convened, slavery would be fastened on the state. This campaign was the most exciting and bitter the state ever saw. The conflict assumed national importance, for with Illinois a slave state the preponderance of the slave party in national affairs was assured.

The vote was not taken until 1824, and in the meantime there was a vigorous debate all over the State. The proslavery men claimed that while Illinois was suffering from hard times, desirable immigrants were passing through to Missouri, which had just been admitted as a slave State.

Addresses were issued to the people, public meetings, held, and the newspapers took a lively part in the discussion. Perhaps no one man by means of his pen, did more to bring about the final and triumphant defeat of the slavery party than did Morris Birkbeck, of Wanborough, Edwards county. His writings were published in the Shawneetown Gazette, edited by Henry Eddy. Personal combats were frequent. There was an avalanche of personal abuse. The convention men, certain of success, were arrogant, insulting, and defiant.

At the head of the abolitionists was Governor Coles, whose efforts were untiring. His residence was mobbed, yet neither violence nor abuse abated his zeal. He cheerfully gave his salary to the cause as well as his official influence and personal ability. The southern born settlers were not all, however, on the proslavery side. Next to Governor Coles, the most

important politician of the antislavery party was probably Congressman Cook. The majority in the older southern counties of the state was in favor of the convention, but the new counties to the north were very much against it.

On the first Monday in August, 1824, the general election was held and it was in this general election that this question had to be settled. It was an eventful day. The cause of freedom was on trial. The aged and the crippled were carried to the polls, and it is said men voted on that occasion who had not seen a ballot box for twenty years. The jury was the 11,612 voters who had the decision in their hands. The eventful day, August 2, 1824, showed a majority against the convention, 6,640 to 4,972, and slavery was dead in Illinois forever. The result was the occasion of great rejoicing.⁹

The following is a report of the vote for and against the convention and it should show just how the state was divided on the question of slavery:

<u>Counties</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Alexander	75	51	Lawrence	158	261
Bond	63	240	Madison	351	563
Clark	31	116	Marion	45	52
Crawford	134	262	Monroe	141	196
Edgar	3	234	Montgomery	74	90
Edwards	189	391	Morgan	42	432
Fayette	125	121	Pike	19	165
Franklin	170	113	Pope	273	124
Fulton	5	60	Randolph	357	284
Gallatin	597	133	Sangamon	153	722
Greene	164	379	St. Clair	408	506
Hamilton	173	85	Washington	112	173
Jackson	180	93	Union	213	240
Jefferson	99	43	Wayne	189	111
Johnson	74	74	White	355	326
-----				4972	6640

⁹ McClean, John, One Hundred Years in Illinois, 1818-1918, Peterson Linotyping Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1919, 216.

Majority against the convention, 1668. Some notion may be had of the interest in the convention question by noting the votes for presidential electors compared with the vote on the convention question. Pope county cast 397 votes on the convention proposition, while her total vote for electors was 84. Gallatin county cast on the convention question 730 votes; on electors 315. St. Clair county on convention question 914; on electors 399. The total vote cast on the convention was 11,612, while the total vote for presidential electors at election in November of the same year in the thirty counties, was but 4,671.¹⁰

Many explanations have been offered of the vote on the convention. There were at least four distinct elements in the population as regards this question.

1. The remnant of the old French settlers who held slaves by reason of the treaties of 1763, and 1783, and of Virginia's deed of session of 1784.
2. The pro-slavery instincts of the immigrants from the slaveholding states.
3. The anti-slavery views of the immigrants from the free states.
4. The intense feeling against slavery held by the English settlers in the eastern part of the state, as well as that of other European settlers.

The old French settlers lived chiefly in Randolph county, St. Clair and Madison counties. These three counties cast 1,116 votes for the convention. The pro-slavery settlers from slave-holding states settled in White, Gallatin, Pope counties. These cast 1,225 votes for the convention. The result of the vote in Edgar, Clark, Morgan, Sangamon, and Fulton counties shows the character of the settlers. They voted very largely against the -----
Moses, 1, page 306.

convention. The vote in these five counties stood 234 for and 1,464 votes against. The influence of the English settlers may be seen in the vote in Edwards County. But there were Irish, Scotch, and Germans scattered throughout the state and their votes were against slavery.

As a result of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 immigration to the state of Illinois was checked during the years 1821-22-23. Since Illinois prohibited slavery many of the emigrants from the slave-holding states settled in Missouri. Yet in the latter part of 1824 and 1825 streams of population poured into the State from the older settled parts of the Union. Travellers who had visited this state carried into the east and even into Europe marvellous stories of the Sangamon country. This Sangamon region was settled by immigrants from all the older states but probably those from the northern states predominated. More than 200 families had settled in the Sangamon Country during this period. In the vote on the convention question, Sangamon County cast 875 votes--153 for and 722 against the convention. This would show a population of over 4,000 in 1824. It also means that these settlers were from the free states chiefly. The anti-slavery victory of 1824 had prevented the immigration of one undesirable element the negro slaves.

7. Status of the Negro after 1824.:- The people of Illinois were not, however, radical abolitionists or believers in the equality of the races. Though the number of slaves gradually diminished, slavery was not absolutely abolished until 1848. The free Negro could not vote, or give his testimony against a white man and he was treated in general as belonging to an inferior race. Yet after all, the great fact was that Illinois was to be a

free state, where the labor of freemen would not have to come into degrading competition with the labor of slaves.

8. The Abolitionists:- Although in 1824 the people of Illinois had voted against its becoming a slave state, yet it must not be supposed that even all of these who were most desirous of keeping it a free state were in favor of the immediate abolition of slavery in the United States. Many antislavery men were in favor of the gradual extinction of the institution, and opposed its immediate abolition as a pernicious policy full of grave dangers. After Cole's administration discussion of slavery ceased almost altogether in the state. The majority of the people, especially in southern Illinois, were opposed to any public discussion of it at all, preferring that the whole question be left quietly alone. But the abolitionists demanded its constant agitation until the slaves should be freed.

The hatred against the abolitionists was as bitter in Illinois as in any other Northern state, and persecution was the lot of the few who dared to express their opinions. However, on October 28, 1837, an antislavery convention of 55 delegates met in Alton, and upheld Elijah P. Lovejoy and his paper, the Observer, published in that city. The subsequent murder of this man by an anti-abolition mob and the destruction of his paper did more for the cause of abolition than any number of speeches or books could have done.

In 1839 Benjamin Lundy, a Quaker, established himself at Lowell, Illinois, for the purpose of printing another abolition paper called, The Genius of Universal Emancipation. Lundy soon died, but from this time on,

with the exception of short intervals, the state was not without an abolition paper.

The Illinois Anti-slavery Society held its first annual meeting at Farmington, in 1838, with 99 delegates present. They appointed a traveling agent to proclaim their doctrine throughout the state and to organize societies. The churches and schoolhouses were often closed to these agents, and mobs often disturbed their meetings. In 1841 at Galesburg the first anti-slavery candidate was nominated for Congress. The first real Liberty state convention met at Chicago in 1842 with 100 delegates present. From that time on Chicago was the chief center of the anti-slavery party in Illinois, and abolition itself became a political movement rather than a moral agitation.

By 1840, the Chicago Anti-Slavery Society with Henry Smith, dry goods merchant, as president, started its activities in monthly meetings being directed by many of the pioneer protagonists of negro freedom.¹¹ In the winter of 1841 and 1842 another group joined the disciples of the cause of anti-slavery,¹² and in 1844, Chicago Female Anti-Slavery Society began a series of meetings at the First Presbyterian Church. By mid-June, 1843, the Illinois Anti-Slavery Society had held its sixth annual meeting and its list of officers reflects the influence of the Chicago group.

Flavel Bascom was chosen one of the five vice-presidents; Luther Rossiter recording secretary; C. V. Dyer, corresponding secretary; Tuthill King, treasurer; and James H. Collins, R. E. W. Adams, Chauncey T. Gaston,

11 Chicago Daily American, Jan. 20, April 9, 1840.

12 Harris, Norman Dwight, The History of Negro Servitude in Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, 1904. 139.

Joseph Meeker among the ten managers. The meeting was held June 7, 1843. The fifth annual meeting had also been held in Chicago, May 26-28, 1842. Twenty-one counties were represented.

To be sure, the activities of the churches in the crusade against slavery became allied with political forces in such a degree that after 1842 it was not always easy to distinguish the source of opposition. Leaders of one group were sometimes the leaders of the other. By autumn 1843, the first Liberty Association in Illinois was set up at Chicago designed to be a substitute for local anti-slavery societies and to serve as a sustaining factor in the Liberty Party, whose members were pledged not to vote for any slaveholder or apologist for slavery.

At the Spring, 1844, meeting of the Chicago Association a resolution of James H. Collins to raise \$500 to pay the expenses of agents, speakers and for the circulation of propagandist tracts resulted in the receipt of \$209 before the meeting adjourned.¹³ Even if little were accomplished in the way of real reform, abolitionism, or anti-slaveryism in some form was making inroads in the conscience of Chicago's inhabitants. By autumn, 1844, the Democrat noted that the abolitionist political rally was attended by twice as many as the Whig campaign meeting, and by 1847 a colored woman preacher drew large audiences for sermons delivered in Chicago churches.¹⁴

 13 Harris, 152-53.

14 Chicago Democrat, September 18, 1844.

The abolitionists did not confine themselves to agitation merely, but made it a business to befriend runaway slaves and help them escape. This they did by means of the "Underground Railroad," which was nothing more than a series of communities where the runaway slaves were reasonably sure of finding food and shelter in the homes of abolitionists. Usually when a slave reached one of these "stations," as such homes were called, he was fed, housed for a short time, and assisted in one way or another to reach the next station. The utmost secrecy as to the location of these stations was necessary, both to facilitate the escape of the negroes and to protect those who sheltered them. It was dangerous business to aid a slave to gain his freedom. The laws attached a penalty of \$500 to the crime of harboring or secreting a negro. But the abolitionists did not hesitate to protect the fugitives even at the risk of their own lives.

The objective point of the Underground Railroad was Canada, of course, but many Negroes did not go farther than the northern part of Illinois. Among the starting points of the system were Chester, Alton, and Quincy: and there was a number of so-called lines or routes crossing the state. When the slaves reached Chicago, they were often smuggled on shipboard and forwarded to English soil by way of the lake.

By 1844 the Western Citizen was openly advertising the Underground Railroad, over the name of its superintendent, B. W. Burke, who declared the road in excellent order that "The station keepers and superintendents are all active and trust-worthy men, that any chattels entrusted to their

care" would be "forwarded with great care, and unparalleled speed."¹⁵

Especially active in local underground activities was John Hossack of Hossack's Grove, twenty-two miles from Chicago, from whom, in 1844, Dr. C. V. Dyer of Chicago received fugitive slaves and by whom, they were forwarded to their destination.¹⁶ Opposition to the activities of those connected with the operation of the Underground Railway sometimes developed, in turn evoking mob resentment and action. The most serious outbreak of this nature occurred in late October, 1846, when a slave catcher named Gallagher took into custody two Negroes whom he asserted were runaway slaves from Missouri.¹⁷ The men appeared before Justice Louis C. Kerchival in order to establish Gallagher's claim, and while the case was in progress a crowd of Negroes, led by abolition advocates and armed with clubs and other weapons, gathered about the officers. The slaves were taken in charge by the mob, the officers of the law defied, and the fugitives were passed on to safety. With this accomplished the mob paraded in triumph.¹⁸

Defense of this action was made by the abolitionist paper, the Western Herald, which declared that the fugitives had been seized unlawfully, and they were not closely guarded because "Those engaged in the odious effort to re-enslave the fugitives perhaps began to fear that the spirit of the people would not brook such an outrage on natural right."¹⁹

15 Western Citizen, June 6, 1844.

16 Ryan, John H., A Chapter from the History of Underground Railroad in Illinois, Illinois State Historical Society, Journal, VIII, April 1915, 25.

17 Western Citizen, November 3, 1846.

18 Weekly Chicago Democrat, November 3, 1846.

19 Western Herald, November 4, 1846.

On the other hand, upholders of law and order assembled in mass meeting freely discussed the incident, and then in resolution proceeded to express the opposition of Chicago's citizenry to slavery in all its forms and to voice aversion to its perpetuation, at the same time protesting mobs and illegal violence as a means of settling the knotty problem. While they maintained their approval of law and of all public officials who enforced it, they served notice that they would never sanction the perversion of law "to aid in Kidnapping The Oppressed, or in the illegal arrest and detention of a Slave."²⁰

9. The Kansas-Nebraska Bill and its effect upon the State of Illinois:-

In 1844 a movement had been set on foot by the War Department to form the country now included in Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota into a vast and permanent Indian reservation. Mr. Douglas, who had just taken his seat in Congress, argued that this would hinder the westward growth and expansion of the United States, and introduced a bill to organize it into a territory instead. The bill was not voted on, but so long as it was before Congress the War Department could do nothing toward making this region an Indian reservation. At every session for ten years Douglas introduced the same or a similar bill. But the members of Congress did not feel much interest in the matter, especially those from the South, since slavery had been forever excluded from the territory in question by the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

In 1854, Senator Douglas introduced a new bill that attracted their attention. It provided for two territories, Kansas and Nebraska; declared

the Missouri Compromise of no effect; and provided that the people of each territory should decide for themselves whether slavery should be allowed there, and whether upon entering the Union their state should be free or slave. Although Douglas was from a free state, this bill was plainly designed to serve the interest of the slaveholders. Many supposed that he wished to be the next Democratic candidate for President and took this way to gain the favor and win the votes of the South. The passage of the bill produced intense excitement throughout the North and in particular the state of Illinois.

As soon as the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was introduced into Congress a campaign against it began in Illinois. The measure was looked upon by many as dangerous, and brought upon Douglas, its author, much public resentment. In February, 1854, a large mass meeting was held in Chicago made up largely of Douglas's former friends. By resolution it declared: "That the passage of the bill for the repeal or molestation of the Missouri Compromise will destroy the harmony which now exists between the North and South, create sectional disturbances and perpetuate agitation of questions which have heretofore been regarded as settled by the unanimous consent of the nation."²¹

Even when Congress passed the bill the agitation against it did not cease, nor did the indignation of the people abate. All over the North Douglas was denounced as a traitor to his section and to the cause of human liberty. One of the Chicago papers said: "He has betrayed us; he has

21 The Daily Democratic Press, Feb. 7, 19, 1854.

disgraced us; he has injured us in our reputation, and our fair name, our honor, and our pecuniary interest."²²

Douglas was burned in effigy along his way home from Washington. When he arrived in Chicago he announced that he would address the people in vindication of the bill on the evening of September 1st. Much excitement prevailed, and rumors of violence were spread. Shortly after noon the flags on all shipping were displayed at half-mast, and a quarter after six in the evening the bells of the city began to toll and filled the air with their mournful tones for over an hour. The vast space in front of the North Market Hall was thronged. An unwelcome silence greeted Douglas as he began to speak. He had uttered but few words when a storm of hisses and groans, mingled with shouts and cheers, drowned his voice. He stood his ground, declaring that he would remain until heard. Whereupon the raucous voices of his adversaries rose in the song:

We won't go home until morning,
Till morning, till morning
We won't go home until morning,
Till daylight doth appear.

Against the tumult, Douglas shouted his attack on the press and some of the citizens of Chicago. Until nearly midnight he boldly and insistently defended his position before an unruly crowd alleged to be armed and bent on violence.²³ Out of patience at last he hurled his final words at his hecklers: "Abolitionists of Chicago! It is now Sunday morning. I'll go to church and you may go to Hell!"²⁴

22 Chicago Daily Democrat, Feb. 8, 1854.

23 The Daily Democratic Press, August 25, Sept. 2, 4, 1854.

24 Johnson, Allen. Stephen A. Douglas. New York. 1908. 259.

Abolitionists were blamed for this demonstration, but they were by no means Douglas's only adversaries. Sheahan declares that the press of the city had inflamed the Know-Nothings to such a degree that every revolver and pistol in the stores of the city had been sold, and that there were orders for a large number yet unfilled. It was likewise reported that Douglas intended to enforce silence by a bodyguard of five hundred Irishmen.²⁵ There seems to be a division of opinion as to the length of time Douglas tried to speak, some writers giving it as about two hours, others indicating that he tried to address the disorderly crowd for nearly four hours. The size of the crowd reflects the feeling of the writer also. Chicago newspapers of the time, according to political color, describe Douglas as irritable and insulting, or as good-tempered under insults.²⁶

The New York Semi-Weekly Tribune, September 8, 1854 says that Douglas measurably lost his self-control; hence much of the disturbance, which followed. The Chicago Tribune also reported that the meeting was not packed with anti-Nebraska men, as his followers alleged, but that feeling was so high in Chicago that it was impossible to obtain a calm statement.

Not only in Chicago but on every hand Douglas saw signs of the displeasure of the people, who denounced him as selling himself to the slave power. His future depended on regaining and holding the friendship of the people of Illinois, so he spent the summer and fall in visiting the most important towns of the state and making speeches in explanation of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. And by skillful reasoning he persuaded many of his hearers

 25 Sheahan, James W., The Life of Stephen A. Douglas, New York, Harper and Bros., 1860, 196.

26 The Free West, September 7, 1854.

that it was not so bad a thing after all. It gave the people of the territories the right to decide for themselves whether they would have slavery or not, and surely such popular sovereignty was in strict accord with the fundamental principles of our government. But his reception in northern and central Illinois was rather cold.

On October 3, 1854, at the state fair in Springfield Douglas began a series of talks. On this day he made a great speech to the many farmers gathered there. The next day he was answered by Abraham Lincoln, an anti-Nebraska Whig. With Lincoln were allied one-time political cohorts of Douglas, including Lyman Trumbull, who was to become a Chicagoan in 1863, and Edmund D. Taylor, Chicago lawyer. This was the first time these two had met in debate. Douglas spoke for several minutes in reply to Lincoln's well-framed and well-delivered three hour speech. Everyone could see that Douglas felt himself beaten. A few days later Douglas made another speech at Peoria and Lincoln answered him again. At the close Douglas proposed to Lincoln that both of them should return home and make no more speeches. Lincoln consented to do so, but later, on having heard that Douglas had broken his agreement and made a speech he again entered the field.

10. Stephen A. Douglas was not the author of the amendment to repeal the Missouri Compromise:- Pease tells us that the motives of the man responsible for the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the repeal of the Missouri Compromise have been speculated over by historians for almost three-quarters of a century; and historians have as yet come to no agreement. Was it a damnable betrayal of the interests of the free North, opening the Great Plains, north of the

1820 line of 36° 30" to slavery, and designed to purchase the vote of the slave-holding south for the Presidency? Was it a bargain in which the North got the undoubted advantage of the location of a railroad to the Pacific with its terminals in the North, in return for the concession to the South of the empty right to carry slaves to a territory where nature had decreed that slavery could not thrive? Was the repeal of the compromise of 1820 the fruit of factional warfare in Missouri? Did Douglas really believe that the doctrine of popular sovereignty--that right of the people of the territory to determine untrammelled by Congressional action past or present the conditions of their life--was carrying to new heights of the old frontier democracy of Jackson?²⁷

At all events late in 1853 Douglas introduced in the senate his bill for the organization of Kansas and Nebraska Territories, with its provision for popular choice in the territory in the territorial stage between freedom and slavery. Later he admitted the amendment, repealing the part of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 that forever prohibited slavery in the Louisiana purchase above 36° 30". Despite the opposition from northern whigs and some northern democrats, he and his chief lieutenant in the house, William A. Richardson, congressman from the Quincy district and chairman of the House committee on territories, drove the Kansas Nebraska act through.²⁸

His colleague in the senate, Shields, supported him; but in the house the four Whig congressmen, with two democrats, John Wentworth and William H. Bissell, a majority of the delegation opposed it. By the time the measure

27 Pease, T.C., The Story of Illinois, A.C. McClurg and Co., Chicago, 1925, 225, 226.

28 Ibid.. 226.

had finally passed; the State of Illinois and the Northwest was all in a
 flame.²⁹

The proposition was originally introduced in the committee on territories by Senator Dixon of Kentucky, and then was accepted by Douglas, who as chairman of the committee reported it. Douglas was not unaware of the effect which such a measure might be expected to produce upon the country. He clearly foresaw, indeed, that it would shake the faith of his party in the north in his leadership, and imperil its prospects of success. His personal friends were divided in opinion in regard to the best course to be pursued. President Pierce, however, backed by his cabinet, was strongly in favor of the proposed action, and it is stated that the celebrated amendment repealing the Missouri Compromise was drafted by himself and not Douglas.³⁰

The senator thus found himself placed in this dilemma: he must either champion a measure which his judgment did not wholly approve, or surrender the leadership of his party. It was only after long hesitation that he decided to take the leap at this turning point in his political career; but having finally reached a conclusion, he espoused the cause of repeal and non-intervention with his usual dash and persistency.³¹

Douglas was not going to surrender the leadership of his party, instead he was going to stand fast on the principle which he labeled "popular sovereignty" or "squatter sovereignty" because he firmly believed in it and claimed

29 Ibid., 226.

30 Hon. John Wentworth is the authority for this statement.

31 Moses, John, Illinois Historical and Statistical, Fergus Printing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1892, II, 588.

two outstanding merits for the proposed policy. He said it was thoroughly democratic and in view of the fact that the question of slavery would be decided by the settlers, popular sovereignty would remove that obnoxious problem from the national politics. Thus the slavery question would be settled forever in the territories by his policy, and he would thereby become the champion and gain the favor of the north and south as having put an end to the spread of slavery through a democratic process. Many people at this time believed that the action of Douglas was intended as a friendly gesture to the South in order to secure the support of that section in his effort to win the presidency.

The writers own conclusion on this point is stated in the following words. In 1850, the Compromise bills of that year were passed. California had been acquired, and a road to the Pacific was indispensable. In 1854, the immense tract of territory, now known as Nebraska--Kansas, was closed, by law to emigration and to travel. Like a huge block, it barred the natural pathway to the Pacific. The South was pressing a railroad from Memphis, and south-westerly across the continent and Mr. Douglas wanted a fair chance to have that railroad lead from the North, where it could find communication through Chicago to the Atlantic. Our railroads had already reached the Mississippi, and others were projected to extend to the Missouri. He wanted Nebraska and Kansas opened, and the country made free to the enterprise of the North, in case of a dissolution of the Union, it was essential to have the Pacific connected by some other route than one through hostile section.

That was the motive for organizing these territories, a motive having

its origin in the desire to benefit the whole nation, and especially to give the Northwest a fair opportunity to compete for the commerce of the great East. But the curse of slavery lay at the threshold. He could not open Kansas and Nebraska without creating a great disturbance, he therefore determined to make one grand struggle, to invite both the North and South to unite in solving this problem. For that purpose he framed the Kansas Nebraska Act, by which he asked the North and South for ever to bind themselves to leave the question of the existence or non-existence of slavery to the exclusive adjudication and determination of the people of the respective territories. The bill passed and became a law. He had accomplished all his purposes so far as they could be done by legislation. The rest he left to time and to the intelligence of the people.

Mr. Douglas was an intelligent statesman. Looking at all questions from an immovable standpoint of principle, he could neither be coaxed nor driven into an approval of what he deemed to be wrong. However, "popular sovereignty" was a failure in Kansas. It also failed to keep the slavery question out of politics, as Douglas claimed that it would do.

The following letter to John Moses, author of Illinois Historical and Statistical from Major George M. McConnel, formerly of Jacksonville, and later resident of Chicago, gives an exceedingly interesting account of an interview between Judge Douglas and himself at this time. It even more than justifies the position taken in this report:

Chicago, August 18, 1889.

Hon. John Moses, Dear Sir:--On the evening of the day in January, 1854 when the famous protest by the Republican members of Congress

against the "Kansas-Nebraska bill" appeared in the New York papers, Judge Douglas called to see Representative (afterward Senator) McDougall of California, and found only myself, then a youth acting as a sort of secretary for McDougall. Mr. Douglas had known me from my infancy, had been befriended by my father, and was quite on a familiar footing in our family for years; hence was under no restraint with me-----and talked of the Kansas matter freely and warmly. He said distinctly that he was not the author of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, that he believed it to have come from a "higher source" but was interjected into the bill by Dixon of Kentucky, with the support of a majority of the committee, against his strenuous opposition. That he opposed it first because he was not willing to extend slavery, was hostile to the institution "on general principles," though believing the slaveholder had political rights which the non-slaveholder could not legally question; and second because he feared the policy of repeal would be fatal to the party with whose fortunes he had identified himself all his political life. But he had been over-ruled and now found himself placed where he must choose either to champion a measure which, though offensive to himself, was approved by the majority of the party of which he was the acknowledged leader, or throw away that leadership and with it the entire fruit of all his public career. "If I do this" he said, "I lose all hope of being of any benefit to my country--to say nothing of sacrificing my personal ambitions--because no one leader is powerful enough to resist a stampede of his party, any more than one buffalo can resist a stampede of his herd." "It's a terrible position for me, my boy," he added, "but I'll do what seems to me best for all." He showed strong feeling, rising and walking excitedly about the room, speaking vehemently, and resenting both the merciless tyranny of his own party, and the bad faith of his opponents who had asked for delay in introducing the bill ostensibly for further examination, but really as it proved, to issue a pronunciamento which maligned him personally and impugned his motives in a way which

he said some of the signers of the protest
knew to be utterly false.*****³²

G.M.McCONNEL.

11. How the repeal of the Missouri Compromise awakened the men of Illinois:-
Democrats, Whigs, Free Soilers--men of all political parties--took part in
the fight against the Kansas-Nebraska bill. Party lines were broken up. The
Democrats who opposed the extension of slavery left the Democratic party and
became known as Anti-Nebraska Democrats, or Free Democrats. For a time the
enemies of the Bill drifted hither and thither, but as the contest grew
fiercer they gradually came closer together.

About August, 1854, a movement was started in Illinois to nominate inde-
pendent candidates for the approaching congressional election on a distinct
Anti-Nebraska platform. The DuPage County Free Democratic Convention met at
Wheaton on August 1st, and declared that a new national party was needed to
restore "the government to its original basis of liberty."³³ The delegates
announced: "We are willing to surrender our party name and to be known by
the name of Republican, suggested by friends of freedom in Wisconsin, Vermont,
and other states."³⁴

From that time on the call for a new party increased. On August 30th the
Republican party of the first Congressional District was organized at Rock-
ford, and E. B. Washburne was nominated for Congress.

A so-called Anti-Nebraska Republican state convention was held at Spring-
field, October 4th, to nominate a state treasurer. It was a gathering of the
abolitionists and the more radical anti-slavery men. The Anti-Nebraska Whigs

³² Ibid., II, 588, 589.

³³ Ibid., 590.

³⁴ Ibid., 591.

and Democrats refused to attend. Abraham Lincoln, who was then a Whig, was asked to be present, but his friends dissuaded him. His name was placed on the state central committee, but he declined to serve. Thus the effort to unite all the anti-slavery men in one party failed for the time. Yet the Whigs, Democrats, and Republicans stood together in support of Anti-Nebraska candidates. Everywhere the campaign was pushed with vigor. When the election was over it was found that the Anti-Nebraska men controlled both houses of the state legislature.

When the nineteenth general assembly convened January 1, 1855, there were found but seven new names in the senate, and only five old ones in the house--Presley Funkhouser, Samuel W. Moulton, Stephen T. Logan, John P. Richmond, and John E. McClun. Of the lately elected senators, eight of them, John H. Addams, Augustus Adams, George Gage, Waite Talcott, John D. Arnold, Joseph Gillespie, John M. Palmer, and William D. Watson, were classed as anti-Nebraska men, and four, William H. Carlin, son of the ex-governor, Jacob C. Davis, Andrew J. Kuykendall, and Hugh L. Sutphin, as democrats. James L. D. Morrison was elected as a Whig and supposed to be anti-Nebraska, but after the organization he voted with the democrats.

Never before had it been so difficult to classify politically the members of the legislature. There were among them a few old Whigs, who still adhered to the name, gloried in it, and were loath to surrender it; there were also straight Democrats, Anti-Nebraska Democrats, Knownothings, Free-soilers, and Abolitionists. On the main question of the Kansas-Nebraska issue the senate stood fourteen Democrats and eleven Anti-Nebraska or

inchoate Republicans; while in the house there were thirty-four Democrats and forty-one in the opposition.

Abraham Lincoln had been elected a member of the house, but upon ascertaining that a majority of that body would be opposed to the election of General Shields, or any regularly nominated Democrat, to the United States Senate, and that their choice would probably fall upon himself, he declined to receive his credentials.³⁵ A special election was ordered and although the Anti-Nebraska ticket had been successful at the general election in Sangamon County by 492 majority, and Mr. Lincoln had received 600 majority, through lack of attention and over-confidence, a Democrat Jonathan McDaniel, was elected in his place. Had not Lincoln, on the advice of friends and in accord with his own judgment, taken this course, he would probably have been elected senator.

The election of a United States senator was the principal bone of contention, but that question was not reached for some time, although frequent attempts had been made in the house to fix a day for it, but the democratic majority in the senate refused to concur. January 31, 1855 was finally agreed upon, but both houses having adjourned over from January 19-23, 1855, the prevalence of a remarkable snow-storm, which blockaded the roads, prevented the return of the absent members and a quorum could not be gathered until February 2, 1855. The election was then fixed for the 8th.

As had been anticipated, Mr. Lincoln was the choice of a large majority

35 Ibid., 591.

of the Anti-Nebraska members for senator. He had been among the first, as well as one of the most able and fearless opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska legislation to take the stump and sound the note of alarm.

General Shields received the caucus nomination of the Democrats without serious opposition. Ten ballots were had in the joint session before a result was reached. The first of these gave Lincoln 45 votes, Shields, 41, Lyman Trumbull, 5, Gustavus Koerner, 2, and William B. Ogden, Joel A. Mattenson, William Kellogg, Cyrus Edwards, Orlando B. Ficklin, and William A. Denning one each. Each member was present and voted except Randolph Heath of Crawford County, a Democrat, who if present did not vote at any of the ballots. That was the nearest Mr. Lincoln came to being elected. Had the five votes given to Trumbull been cast for him his success would have been assured as Gillespie who voted for Edwards, and Babcock who voted for Kellogg, would have changed to Lincoln and made his total one more than the constitutional majority. But this was not to be. The five members who had agreed to stand by Judge Trumbull in every emergency as long as there was any possibility of his election, were Messrs. Palmer, Cook, and Judd of the senate, and Allen and Baker of Madison County of the house--all of them subsequently active and leading Republicans.

In the six following ballots Lincoln fell off to 36 votes, Trumbull increased to 10, and Shields reached 42. The friends of Lincoln then endeavored to adjourn the joint-session but failed. On the seventh ballot the Democrats changed to Governor Matteson giving him 44 votes. On the next ballot Lincoln fell off to 27 votes, Trumbull grew to 18, and Matteson had

46. The ninth ballot gave the governor 47, Trumbull 35, Lincoln 15, and Williams 1. It now is becoming apparent that the choice must fall upon either Trumbull or Matteson; Mr. Lincoln urged those who were inclined to adhere to his waning fortune, to vote for Trumbull; and this they did, excepting Waters, giving him on the next and last ballot just the required 51 votes, to 47 for Matteson, and one (Waters) for Williams.³⁶ By this unselfish act Lincoln gained many friends and secured the election of Trumbull. The latter's election was regarded as a rebuke to Douglas, and to emphasize the rebuke the legislature passed a resolution instructing the senators from Illinois to oppose the admission of slave states formed out of Kansas-Nebraska territory, and to advocate the restoration of the Missouri Compromise.

At length the time seemed ripe for the foes of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill to withdraw from their old parties and form a state party which should unite all the anti-slavery elements in the state into one powerful whole. The preliminary step to such an organization was taken at Decatur, February 22, 1856. They asked all who were in favor of the restoration of the Missouri Compromise to drop all party differences upon other issues and unite in a state convention to be held at Bloomington, May 29, the chief object of the convention being the nomination of state officers on an Anti-Nebraska platform.

The call met a hearty response. Seventy-one counties out of one hundred were represented, and men of all parties were present, Whigs, Democrats,

36 Illinois House Journal; Illinois Senate Journal, 1855, 178.

Free Democrats, Abolitionists, Republicans. While the name Republican was not applied to the convention at the time, yet this is considered the first real Republican state convention of Illinois. John M. Palmer was chosen permanent chairman. William H. Bissell, a Democrat, was unanimously nominated for governor. The platform declared that the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was unwise, and unjust and injurious; "that we are devoted to the Union and will to the last extremity defend it against the efforts now being made by the disunionists of his administration to compass its dissolution; and that we will support the Constitution of the United States in all its provisions, regarding it as the sacred bond of our Union and the only safeguard for the preservation of the rights of ourselves and our posterity."³⁷

The course of senator Trumbull was approved and that of Senator Douglas was condemned. Abraham Lincoln was chairman of the nominating committee. He made the most telling speech of the convention, in which he defined his position on the slavery question fearlessly.

The abolitionists hesitated no longer but hastened to give him their support, and all the Anti-Nebraska advocates began to rally about him, as the undoubted leader of the new party in Illinois. The contest of 1856 was noteworthy in Illinois. The Republicans were completely successful in electing the state officials, including the governor, W. H. Bissell. The triumph gave the new party great prestige within the state and welded all the anti-slavery elements more firmly together.

12. Sectional Controversies in Illinois, 1854-1860:- After the adoption of

37 Davidson and Stuve, 168.

the second state constitution, the most prominent thing in Illinois politics is the conflict of parties in the state on great national issues of a sectional character, particularly those relating to slavery. During the early years of statehood, Illinois had been very conservative on these questions. There had been radical anti-slavery men and anti-slavery societies, but the general sentiment of the state was against them. This was particularly true of the Democratic party. Already, however there were indications of a change. The northern counties of the state grew much more rapidly than the southern and these northern counties were rapidly being filled by settlers from New York and New England who were strongly northern in their views of the slavery question. The German immigrants who were coming to Illinois in large numbers, had at first supported the Democratic party, but they did not like the pro-slavery and extreme states-rights views of the southern Democrats. When the Kansas-Nebraska bill of 1854 repealed the Missouri Compromise prohibiting slavery in the old Louisiana Territory north of $36^{\circ} 30''$, many of these German Democrats, together with other moderate anti-slavery men, joined the radical abolitionists in forming the new Republican party, which held its first state convention at Bloomington in 1856.

Northern and central sections of Illinois during the war years remained definitely loyal to the Union, while the extreme down state sections retained a definitely pro-southern attitude. This sectionalism, which became so apparent in Illinois during the war years, is directly traceable to the early settlement of Illinois.

The northern most counties were settled almost entirely by immigrants

from New England and the "Free States." In the election of 1860 this sector gave Lincoln a decided majority of the presidential votes cast. It was here particularly that abolitionists doctrines were to find nourishment during the Civil War.

Southern Illinois was the recipient of early migration from Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and the Carolinas. As late as 1840, at least three-fourths of the population of Macon county were emigrants from the Southern States. The people of southern Illinois, because of social, family and other ties with their southern homelands, retained a pro-southern attitude, which was to become so important a factor in Illinois during the war years. In the first days of the Civil War a secession movement in southern Illinois was a danger to be reckoned with.

The foreign population of Illinois was composed largely of Irish residing in the largest towns, Poles, Germans and English, many of whom were rapidly coming in possession of the unimproved lands owned by descendents of the early French settlers near Belleville and in the Mississippi bottoms. At the time of the Civil War there were about 500 hundred Poles in Chicago. They stood patriotically by their adopted country during this crisis. The Germans, especially, were "thoroughly patriotic to the Union Cause."³⁸

A new era was opened to this part of the west when the English began their first settlement here in Illinois. Morris Birkbeck and George Fowler, both well-to-do Englishmen, came to this country, the latter in 1816 and the former in 1817. They knew each other in England, and on meeting in this

38 Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois
V, 34, 1941, 679.

country, they mutually agreed to explore the western country together and if possible find the "Eldorado" that was then agitating the minds of the people of the South and East. They had heard of the beautiful prairies of Illinois territory and so infatuated were they with the glowing accounts given that they determined to see for themselves, and if it came up to their expectations, it was their intention to plant a colony of their own countrymen within the western wilds. They left Richmond, Virginia in the Spring of 1817, the party being composed of Mr. Birkbeck and family and Mr. Fowler. Both fulfilled the part they had to perform and the English colony became a reality. Too much cannot be said of the indomitable energy and perseverance of these two men. Through their efforts, many of their countrymen were provided with comfort and homes, not having means sufficient in their own country to supply them. Both were anti-slavery men and did much to prevent the slavery system being planted in Illinois. Mr. Birkbeck had a large influence in matters of state of the new formed commonwealth, having the honor of receiving the appointment of Secretary of State under Governor Coles in 1824. When in 1823 an attempt was made to legalize slavery in Illinois no one enlisted with truer heroism than Fowler. So nearly balanced were the contending parties of the state, that the vote of the English colony turned the scale. The English Colony was located in Edwards County.³⁹

In its original organization Edwards County embraced an immense area of territory--extending practically from the Ohio river, (for its southern boundary, Gallatin County, was but relatively a short distance from the

39 History of Edwards County, Illinois, J. L. McDonough and Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1883, 203-4-12.

river,) to Upper Canada, including what is now a portion of the State of Wisconsin. The following counties or parts of counties, in Illinois, have been formed out of the territory originally included in Edwards County:- Wabash, Clay, Jasper, Coles, Macon, DeWitt, Kankakee, Kendall, DeKalb, Wayne, Richland, Effingham, Cumberland, Piatt, McClean, Grundy, DuPage, Boone, Jefferson, Lawrence, Fayette, Edgar, Champaign, Livingston, LaSalle, Cook, McHenry, Marion, Crawford, Shelby, Clark, Vermillion, Iroquois, Will, Kane, Lake. When Edwards County was organized, neither Cook County nor Chicago had any existence, but the present Cook County was in the jurisdiction of Edwards County, and its county-seat at Palmyra, at the Falls of the Big Wabash, a town which has long since ceased to be. Cook County was named for Daniel P. Cook, a member of Congress from Illinois. He had been a member of Congress since 1819, and had secured from Congress a donation of 225,000 acres of land for the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Because of this service Cook County was named for him. The following is the letter giving the extent of the country Edwards County embraced:

Springfield, August 12, 1882

Hon. E. B. Washburne, Chicago, Illinois

My dear Sir:--Replying to your favor of the 9th inst., it affords me pleasure to furnish you the following information concerning the information of Edwards County, which would seem to answer your inquires and put you in possession of the desired information. I begin by giving you the original boundaries of the County, as described in the act creating the County:

"Edward County--organized Nov. 28th, 1814. All that tract of country within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of Pon Pas creek, on the Big Wabash, and running

thence due west to the meridian line, (3rd P.M.) which runs north from the mouth of the Ohio river; thence with said meridian line and due north till it strikes the line of Upper Canada; thence with the line of Upper Canada to the line that separates this territory from the Indiana Territory; and thence with the said dividing line to the beginning.

The south boundary line of the County was about the middle of Township three (3) south. The territory out of which Edwards was formed comprised the northern portion of Gallatin, and the eastern portion of Madison County. You will notice that Edwards not only embraced all the counties in eastern Illinois, as at present organized north of Town three (3), south, but a large portion of Wisconsin as well.

If you will take a map of the State of Illinois and draw a line east and west from the 3d P.M. to the Wabash River on the southern boundaries of the present counties of Edwards and Wayne, a glance from this line to the northern line of the State, and east of the 3d meridian, will disclose the present counties, embraced in the original Edwards.

The county-seat was located at Palmyra. If you so desire, I'll send you a copy of the law forming the county.⁴⁰

Very truly yours,

Hon. Dodge Dement.

The Swedish Colony had its origin in Illinois in 1848. At this time Jansson, with some of his followers, migrated to Illinois. They found the conditions existing in the established church of Sweden intolerable. This group founded a colony at Bishop Hill, Henry Co., where a state park was established. Its first leader Erik Jansson, persuaded many Swedes to follow

⁴⁰ Fowler, George, History of the English Settlement in Edwards County, Illinois, Fergus Printing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1882, 11, 12.

him to America.

Between 1848 and 1854, about 1,500 followers of Jansson went to Bishop Hill. The colony's possessions were held in common. Families lived in buildings divided so as to give separate quarters but all worked together and all ate in communal dining rooms. Every member was required to work and after basic needs had been met all surplus products were used to purchase more land or erect buildings. At its peak, the colony owned 12,000 acres of land. It became noted for the table linens and other articles produced from flax grown by members.

The one dramatic chapter in the whole story of progress of the Danes, Norwegians and Swedes, is that dealing with their part in the struggle, in which many hundreds of them gave their strength and life for the unity and safety of their adopted country. They hated slavery and loved the flag under whose folds they realized their hopes and dreams.⁴¹

The foreign population in Illinois was largely settled in the largest towns and cities and in particular the city of Chicago. By the late thirties heavy foreign migrations had taken place, so that by mid-century over half of the city was made up of foreign immigrants. As in the forties, the largest foreign group in the city in 1850 was the Irish, numbering over six thousand, more than 20 per cent of the total population and nearly 39 per cent of all foreigners. Their numbers continued to mount during the next two decades, although the ratio in proportion to total population and other foreign born decreased. Driven to seek release from political oppression, large numbers

41 Babcock, Kendrick C., The Scandinavian Element in the United States, published by University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, p. 75.

came, particularly from Waterford, Cork, and Limerick. By the late forties, in one week £9,000 in separate sums of £1 each were paid to one house in Liverpool "as head money for so many separate families emigrating to America."⁴²

In Chicago, many of the Irish went to make up the unskilled labor so important to the growing community. Often crowded in unsanitary shanties which provided little shelter from the cruelties of the weather, they tended to congregate on the North Side and in Bridgeport, the slaughterhouse district located along the line of the canal.

Whether of the lowly or of the more prosperous, the Irish were intensely loyal to their native land, for which independence was craved even to the point of large offerings of money and the proffer of personal service. Assistance for this purpose was frequently sought in mass meetings of Irish nationals, who, making merry on St. Patrick's Day demonstrated for Irish independence. By the early sixties the Fenian Brotherhood, whose chief aim was Irish independence, could boast a membership of at least three hundred, anxious to fight England.⁴³ One purpose of the Fenians was to get arms and munitions and to hold military drill. The exact date of the organization in Chicago is not known. Their hall was located in 1863 at the northwest corner of Wells and Randolph streets, where meetings were held twice each week. Continued activity on the part of these green-and black garbed Irishmen provoked the charge that they were attempting to set up a republic within a republic.⁴⁴ Large sums of money poured into the central office of New York and by 1866 Chicago

⁴² Daily Democrat, January 15, 16, 1849; Chicago Tribune, March 8, 1865.

⁴³ The Daily Democratic Press, Sept. 13, 1855; Chicago Tribune, March 8, 1865.

⁴⁴ Chicago Evening Journal, March 18, 1863.

was reported to have the finest regiment in the Fenian army, which, with others from the state, moved toward Buffalo under General Thomas W. Sweeny to strike at Canada.⁴⁵ But the movement was doomed to failure, for President Johnson forbade Americans to engage in such an enterprise, and the United States Circuit Court declared the invasion a violation of the Neutrality Act of 1818, still in force.

Besides the Irish, the British Isles contributed English, Welsh, and Scotch. Altogether these four groups made up almost 29 per cent of the total population and about 55 per cent of the foreign born in 1850. Next to the Irish, emigrants from England, were the largest group. In 1850 they numbered 1,883, and by 1860 they had increased to 4,354. They, too, kept alive memories of the homeland by dining on Queen Victoria's Birthday and by association with their fellows in St. George's Society of Illinois, founded in the spring of 1847 and designed for both benevolent and social purposes.⁴⁶ Next came the Scots, who numbered 610 in 1850. In 1860, this group had increased to 1,641.⁴⁷ Least in numbers from the British Isles were the Welsh, so few indeed that the census of 1850 counted them with the English. In 1860, there were only 222 in Chicago.

The single nationality which added most to the population of Chicago after 1850 was the German. In 1850, the 5,094 Germans in the city comprised 17 per cent of the total population. Their numbers grew rapidly, and in the

⁴⁵ Ibid., August 14, 186.

⁴⁶ The Daily Democratic Press, May 26, 1856; Daily Democrat, Sept. 21, 1860.

⁴⁷ Andreas, A. T., History of Chicago, II, 497-98.

census of 1860 German born represented more than 20 per cent of the total population. Unlike the Irish, they were, on the whole, Protestant in religion, although immigrants from the German-speaking sections, Baden, Bavaria, Austria and Bohemia, were, for the most part, Catholic. By 1860 26 per cent of the Germans in Chicago came from Prussia, with Bavaria nearly 12 per cent; and Bohemians ranked second with almost 11 per cent.⁴⁸ By 1860 there were in Chicago 22,230 German born.

Next in numbers was the Scandinavian group--the Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes--although in 1860 they were only 2,279. This was about 2 percent of the total population and a little more than 4 per cent of the foreign born. The original location of the Swedish colony was in the section bounded by Division Street and Grand Avenue on the north and south, and by Wells Street and North Branch of the Chicago River on the east and west. After 1850, Swedes located between Indiana Avenue and Erie Street along the North Branch of the River. In 1853 and 1854 Swedes purchased lots from W. B. Ogden and W. L. Newberry, and scattered over the Northside. By this time some moved to the South Side.⁴⁹

In fewer numbers were the French, making less than 1 per cent of the total population at this time. Of those who reached Chicago many passed to homes on the prairies, and a colony on its way to Bulbonia's Grove in Will County. In 1850, there were but 234 French in Chicago. In 1860 the number increased to 883, enough, it was felt to justify the establishment of a vice-consulate in the city.⁵⁰

48 United States, Eighth Census, 1860, "Population," 613.

49 Ibid., 613.

50 Ibid., 613.

Belgians, Italians, Poles, and Russians were here in relatively small numbers. Indeed, no one of them made up as much as 1 percent of the population from 1850 to 1860. By 1860 about 500 Poles lived in Chicago.

Many of these immigrants had first supported the Democratic Party. They opposed slavery in its every form, and when the Kansas-Nebraska bill repealed the Missouri Compromise they joined the radical abolitionists and other anti-slavery groups in forming the new Republican party.

During the period from 1855 to 1860, the state was pretty evenly divided between the two parties, the most interesting single event being the great senatorial contest of 1858 between Stephen A. Douglas, and Abraham Lincoln. Douglas was able to keep his place in the Senate of the United States, but the election showed that Illinois was becoming more and more northern in its political sympathies.

Though the state was divided on the question of slavery and though many Illinois people believed that the policy of the Republicans was unjust to the South, few of them were ready to accept secession. When in April, 1861, the southerners fired on Fort Sumter and Lincoln issued his famous call for troops, the Illinois Democrats generally followed their leader, Stephen A. Douglas, in pledging their support to the Union.

An attempt will be made in subsequent chapters to show to what extent the martial spirit was mobilized and instilled in the citizens of Illinois and how opposition elements were finally united through the patriotic and manly course of many leading Democrats, notably Senator Douglas, in supporting the Union and standing by President Lincoln in his effort to preserve the

integrity of the national government. The patriotism of many outstanding citizens of Illinois had much to do in making staunch unionists of many who up to that time had openly opposed the course of the administration at work or hesitated to give it their allegiance.

CHAPTER II

THE MOBILIZATION OF PHYSICAL, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, THE INTELLIGENT PURPOSE OF THE PEOPLE AND THE STAUNCH LOYALTY OF PATRIOTIC CITIZENS FIRMLY UNITED THE SPIRIT OF ILLINOIS

1. Illinois on the eve of the great conflict:- There was a wonderful advance in the Prairie State between the years of 1850 and 1860. The yield of corn and wheat doubled.⁵¹ The value of taxable property increased three fold.⁵² The railroad mileage grew from 270 miles in 1850 to 2900 miles in 1860. The acreage of farms had increased from a little over 5,000,000 to over 13,000,000. The population increased from 851,470 to 1,171,951. The population of Chicago grew from 29,963 to 109,260. The last two of our 102 counties were organized in 1859.

Illinois in 1860 had become the fourth state in the Union in population and wealth, having in the last decade outstripped the states of Virginia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Indiana. Her advance in power and influence in the councils of the nation had been no less extraordinary than her local progress. From seven congressmen in 1850, she was now entitled to thirteen; and in shaping the policy of the nation, and directing the course of empire, no voice was more potent than that of the Prairie State.

51 The following table, from the census reports, shows the increase in the principal cereals and live stock:

	Wheat, Bu.	Corn, Bu.	Horses.	Cows.	Hogs.
1850	9,414,575	57,646,984	267,653	612,036	1,915,907
1860	23,837,023	115,147,777	563,736	1,483,813	2,502,308

52 The taxable property in 1850 was set down at \$119,868,336 and in 1860 at \$367,227,742.

Great also have been the improvements in other directions. The farmers were now using reapers, mowers, corn cultivators, and improved vehicles of every kind. The sewing machine had become a household convenience, and greatly facilitated the task of making clothing for the soldiers on the battlefield. Stock raising had already become an important source of wealth. The manufactured products of the state had risen in value from \$2,000,000 in 1850 to the respectable figure of \$57,000,000, in 1860. Log houses were disappearing, and comfortable frame and brick structures were being erected.

2. Local and National elections of 1860:- In the world of politics, there was no less activity than in the social and business circles. The ferment of discussion upon the slavery question had reached a point where some final adjustment of momentous issue could no longer be avoided.

The Republican state convention of 1860 met at Decatur, May 9, every county being represented except Pulaski County. It was held in a wigwam built for the occasion, and in material, enthusiasm, and numbers has not been since equalled. Lincoln was there, and Judge Logan, and Browning, and Wentworth, Palmer, Burlbut, Oglesby, and Peck. Judge Joseph Gillespie was elected to preside.

The candidates for governor were Richard Yates of Morgan, Norman B. Judd of Cook, and Leonard Swett of McLean. Upon the informal ballot Judd had 245 votes, Swett 191, and Yates 183. On the formal ballot Yates gained 14 over Swett and Judd also gained. The second ballot was likewise damaging to Swett, both the others gaining from him. The third ballot was as follows: Judd 252--he losing 11 votes, Yates 238, Swett 246. Upon the next ballot

the friends of Swett went to Yates, giving him 363 votes and the nomination.⁵³

Francis A. Hoffman of Cook County was nominated for lieutenant-governor; Jesse K. Dubois, auditor; Ozias M. Hatch, secretary of state; William Butler, treasurer; and Newton Bateman, state superintendent of public instruction.

The democratic convention met at Springfield, June 13, 1860, and was presided over by Hon. Wm. McGurtry. The first ballot for governor yielded the following result: for James C. Allen of Crawford County, 157 votes; S. A. Buckmaster, 81; J. L. D. Morrison, 88; Newton Cloud, 65; Walter B. Soates, 14; and 4 scattering. On the second ballot, Judge Allen proved to be the favorite and was nominated. He had served one term in the legislature and two terms in congress, and was known as a popular and able canvasser. L. W. Ross was nominated for lieutenant-governor; G. H. Campbell, secretary of state; Bernard Arntzen, auditor; Hugh Maher, treasurer; E. R. Roe as superintendent of public instruction--a strong ticket.

The national Republican convention, held at Chicago, May 16, 1860, resulted in the nomination of Lincoln for president on the third ballot. It had become apparent at Decatur, that he was a much more formidable candidate than had been supposed. Forces were at work in all the free-states, of whose full extent he was not aware, which pointed to him as the probable choice of the people.

The Democratic national convention was held at Charleston, S.C., April 23, 1860, all the states being represented, with contesting delegations

from Illinois and New York. After a session of eight days, and the adoption of a platform, the delegates from Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Texas, Louisiana--except two, South Carolina--except three, three from Arkansas, two from Delaware--including Senator Bayard, and one from North Carolina seceded from the convention. The convention then proceeded to ballot for president, with the following result: Douglas 145 $\frac{1}{2}$ votes, Guthrie, 35, Hunter 42, Dickinson 7, A. Johnson 12, Lane 6, Jeff Davis 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Toucy 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, F. Pierce 1. The fifty-seventh ballot showed 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ votes for Douglas, and 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ divided among the other candidates, Douglas still lacking 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ votes of the requisite two-thirds. The convention then, on May 3, adjourned to meet in Baltimore, June 18. At Baltimore other delegations--those from Virginia, Tennessee, Indiana, Delaware, and Kentucky--withdrew. Judge Douglas was then nominated by the remaining delegates, receiving on the second ballot 181 $\frac{1}{2}$ votes to 13 opposed. The seceding states nominated John C. Breckenridge for president and Joseph Lane for vice-president.

In Illinois, the campaign of 1858 was continued and in some respects repeated, with the same candidates, but in different relations. Lincoln, while he received no votes in ten Southern States and but a light vote in the other five, carried every free-state except New Jersey, whose electoral vote was divided between himself and Douglas. Breckenridge carried all the Southern States except his own--Kentucky. The popular vote was: Lincoln, 1,866,352; Douglas 1,375,157; Breckenridge 847,514; Bell 587,830. The electoral vote: Lincoln 180; Breckenridge, 72; Bell, 39; Douglas, 12.⁵⁴

The gubernatorial canvas in Illinois was exceedingly brilliant, and the

most exciting since that of 1826, when Edwards was elected over Sloc. The people recorded their verdict at the polls as follows: for Yates, 172,196 votes; Allen, 159,253; T. M. Hope, 2,049; John Stuart, 1,626. Francis A. Hoffman, the lieutenant-governor elect, was born at Herford, Prussia. He was decidedly anti-slavery, and among the first to assist in the organization of the Republican party. He was the third foreigner elected in this state to preside over the senate.

3. The twenty-second general assembly:- The twenty-second general assembly, which convened January 7, 1861, was Republican in both branches--by one majority in the senate and seven in the house. Shelby M. Cullom, who had served with distinction in the twentieth general assembly, was elected speaker of the house, receiving thirty-nine votes to twenty-nine cast for J. W. Singleton. On January 10, the two houses met in joint-session for the purpose of electing a United States senator. Judge Trumbull, having proved himself an able and industrious member, was the unanimous choice of the Republicans for reelection. The Democrats voted for Samuel S. Marshall, the vote standing for Trumbull 54 to 36 for his opponent.

But few laws of public interest were enacted at this session, the proceedings and discussions being largely affected by paramount national questions and the events daily transpiring. Legislative and congressional apportionment bills were passed; also an act for the protection of inn-keepers; and one to protect married women in their separate property.⁵⁵

55 Illinois House Journal; Illinois Senate Journal, 1861, 204.

4. Inauguration of Richard Yates, Sr. as Governor:- On January 14, 1861, Richard Yates was inaugurated governor of Illinois in the presence of both houses of the general assembly. As the Civil War period was now on hand, public sentiment and official life were busy with the treatment of national questions rather than local ones. South Carolina was the first to act, and on December 20, 1860 passed an ordinance "to dissolve the union between the State of S.C. and the other states united with her under the compact entitled the constitution of the United States of America."⁵⁶ The state of Mississippi, on January 9, was the first to follow; then came Florida and Alabama, on January 11; Georgia, on January 18; Louisiana, on January 26; and Texas, on February 1. In Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee, such was the strength of the Union sentiment that the designs of the revolutionists were, for the time being thwarted; while in Kentucky, Delaware, Maryland, and Missouri, although there was a large number of secessionists, especially among the office-holders, they were not sufficiently strong to carry their states out of the Union by formal enactment.

Such was the portentous aspect of public affairs when Governor Yates took oath of office; although but two states had actually passed an ordinance of secession, it was evident that the ominous shadow of disunion was to darken every southern commonwealth. The inaugural message of the governor was mainly devoted to a discussion of that subject. He defended the following propositions: First-- That obedience to the constitution and laws must

56 Cole, A. C., The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1870, (Clarence W. Alvord, ed., The Centennial History of Illinois, III, Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1919, 356.

be insisted upon and enforced as necessary to the existence of government; Second: That the election of a chief magistrate of the Nation, in strict conformity with the constitution, was not sufficient cause for the release of any state from any of its obligations to the Union. He went on further to say that this Union cannot be dissolved by one State, nor by the people of one State or of a dozen States. This government he said was designed to be perpetual, and the people of Illinois would unanimously pledge the men and means of the State to uphold the Constitution and preserve the Union.⁵⁷

The seceding states, under the name of the Confederate States of America, adopted a constitution at Montgomery, Alabama, February 9, 1861, and organized their government by the election of Jefferson Davis, president, and Alexander H. Stephens, vice-president. Two days later, Abraham Lincoln left his old home in Springfield for the city of Washington, to assume the duties of president of the United States.

5. The Flag fired upon:- The winter of 1860-61 was one of great political activity in the national capital. Senators and representatives from the southern states were resigning their seats in congress and making farewell speeches in that body. President Buchanan was doing nothing to check the spirit of secession. The military movements of the south were as rapid and dramatic as had been the political events in the national capital. Forts, arsenals, and munitions passed rapidly from the control of the national government to that of the seceded states. On the 12th of April, the secessionists opened fire on Fort Sumter. The morning of the 14th, Major Anderson

57 Governors' Messages During Civil War, 1861-1866. Compilation of Governors Messages from each state during the Civil War, 182.

marched out of the fort, and the flag of South Carolina was run up.

On Monday morning, April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers for three months, "in order to suppress said combination and to cause the laws to be duly executed." All loyal citizens were called upon to aid "this effort to maintain the honor, integrity and the existence of our National Union." On the same day, a dispatch having been received from the secretary of war stating the quota of Illinois under the president's call. The governor issued his call for six regiments of militia. Immediate compliance in letter and spirit was had. Adjutant General Thomas S. Mathers, the following day issued Governor's proclamation calling into service six regiments of state militia. The response was grand as the purpose was noble.⁵⁸

"When the requisition was made, the military force of Illinois existed largely on paper. There were neither brigades, regiments nor battalions."⁵⁹ There were hardly thirty militia companies in the entire state and they were located largely in the cities, where drill was occasionally held only for "exercise and amusement."⁶⁰ Such was the state of preparedness in Illinois when the call to arms was received in Illinois. Governor Yates immediately went into action.

6. Extra Session of the Legislature:- The regular session of the legislature

58 Report of Adjutant General of Illinois, Rev. ed., Springfield, Illinois, 1900, I, 4.

59 McCormack, T. J., editor, Memoirs of Gustave Koerner, 1809-1896, Cedar Rapids, Ia., 1909, II., 121.

60 Ibid., 122.

had just recently adjourned when Fort Sumter was fired on. After being notified by the Secretary of War of the call for troops, he immediately issued a call for a special session of the legislature to convene April 23, for the purpose of passing a militia bill and placing the state on a "war footing." The special session which Governor Yates had called was in session but ten days, and in that time it had attempted to "perfect the organization and equipment of the militia of the State and placing the same on the best footing to render assistance to the general government in preserving the union, enforcing the laws, and protecting the property and rights of the people."⁶¹ General order number one was issued by the adjutant-general, requiring commandants of state military organizations to take immediate steps to perfect their drill and discipline.⁶²

The legislature provided for the acceptance into service of ten regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry and one battalion of light artillery.

The state legislature also appropriated \$1,000,000 to defray the expenses of the ten regiments and additional \$2,000,000 for war purposes. It further demonstrated its patriotism by resolving: "That the faith, credit, and resources of the State of Illinois, both in men, and women, and money are pledged to any amount and to every extent which the Federal Government may demand."⁶³

61 Moses, 642.

62 Report of Adjutant General, I, 6, 7.

63 Illinois Senate Journal, 22nd G.A., 2nd Session, 57-58.

7. The effect of the firing on Sumter on the State of Illinois:- The state was ablaze with military excitement. Mass meetings in great numbers were held all over the state. Clergy and laity united in utterance of loyal sentiments, amid the singing of patriotic songs and enthusiastic cheers. "The Star Spangled Banner," and "The Red, White and Blue," now that the old flag had been assaulted by armed traitors, were shouted forth with a zest and fervor which gave to their melody an inspiration hitherto unfelt, and a power never before realized. Women, regardless of what the war might cost them, vied with the men in demonstrations of that unflinching courage which is born only of loyalty and devotion.

In Illinois, there was a union of sentiment among all parties as remarkable as it was gratifying. Leading democratic journals came out in condemnation of the rebels, and sustaining the government. Business in the principle cities slowed perceptibly. In Aurora and Ottawa, "Business of all kinds was at a standstill."⁶⁴ Banks and railroads were not hesitant in offering their services to the state. The former at once placed at the disposal of the state treasury sums of cash to meet the temporary expenses of the organizing state troops until legislation could make the appropriations.⁶⁵ At this time \$100,000 was offered to the governor as a loan, to aid in organizing and equipping the troops, by the leading banks and bankers of Springfield, and \$500,000 by those of Chicago, Quincy Savings Banks gave \$20,000.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ McCormack, 132.

⁶⁵ Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Illinois, April 25, 1861.

⁶⁶ Illinois State Journal, 1861.

Up to this time the whole population of Illinois, with the exception of a very few people, was divided into Republicans and Douglas Democrats. There had been a strong sympathy between the Douglas Democrats and the Southern Democrats, and almost as strong a hatred for the Republicans. The Republicans were called "black abolitionists." Douglas himself persisted in calling Lincoln's friends the Black Republicans in the debates of 1858. But when the flag was fired on Democrats and Republicans forgot any differences which they may have had and rallied to the defense of the flag.

8. The effect of the firing on Fort Sumter on the people of Chicago:- On this memorable day, a hysterical Chicago could find in its heart "no toleration towards traitors."⁶⁷ Pulpit and press joined in declaring that loyalty in thought and word was every man's duty. "Lenity and forbearance have only nursed the viper into life," cried the editor of the Chicago Tribune.

On the evening of the fall of Fort Sumter thousands of men of all political creeds gathered at the Wigwam to consider the distress of the nation. Here Judge George Manierre administered to them an oath of fealty to the constitutions of the nation and the state, in what William Onahan described as "a solemn spectacle."⁶⁸ Appeals for men, money, and arms, voiced at gatherings in Bryan Hall, Metropolitan Hall, in churches, and on street corners, resounded amidst the footsteps of men marching to drum and fife.

67 Chicago Daily Journal, April 15, 1861; April 20, 1861.

68 Onahan, William, Mid-America, "A Civil War Diary," III, July, 1931, 64-72. Onahan was a prominent Irish citizen, produce commission merchant and leading Catholic layman.

By the evening of the twentieth, \$36,000 was given, "not loaned," for "fitting out the city volunteers."⁶⁹ The volunteer fund grew daily, and committees from the Board of Trade, the bench and bar, railroads, citizens, and military organizations offered their services and resources to the cause of the hour. Newspapers reflected the fervor so prevalent in editorial columns and in advertisements designed to awaken any laggards in enlistment. On April 26, thousands of dollars were poured into the war coffers of the city, as a great mass meeting heard Wentworth describe the scenes of excitement he saw as he approached the city the night of Fort Sumter's fall.⁷⁰

9. Call for Troops:- Illinois was asked to raise six regiments for the suppression of the rebellion. By April 16, the news of military enrollment and drill resounded "from every hamlet in Illinois." The usual method of raising a company was the holding of community mass meetings. Such a meeting was held at Galena on April 16, under the chairmanship of U. S. Grant. "Ernest and eloquent appeals" were made by E. B. Washburne, and John A. Rawlins. "Some twenty-six recruits were the result." The first company of volunteers tendered in response to the governor's call on April 16, was the Zouave Grays of Springfield, Captain John Cook, commanding. On the same day other companies were tendered from Richard J. Oglesby, Macon County; Benj. M. Prentiss, Adams County; Wilford D. Wyatt, Logan County; George W. Rives, Edgar County, two companies; John Lynch, Richland County; and by Gustavus Koerner, five companies from St. Clair County; and before night of the 18th

69 Chicago Tribune, April 16, 19, 20, 1861.

70 Chicago Tribune, December 14, 1860; January 12, 1861.

fifty companies had been tendered. The governors call for troops thrilled the people of Illinois with the spirit of war. Volunteers offered themselves faster than they could be accepted.

Even before Lincoln called for troops, Chicago military organizations long a part of the social and recreational life of the city, experienced a revival of interest in things martial. The Irish Montgomery Guards and Shields Guards, the Chicago Light Artillery, the United States Zouave Cadets, among others, made up the Sixtieth Regiment, State Militia. This regiment and that known as the Washington Independent Regiment presented a semblance of regular army organization at a time when trained forces were needed. Several of the old military organizations existed only on paper in 1860, but the Chicago Light Artillery, a part of the Sixtieth Regiment, was ready for service in January, 1861. The politically-minded Wide Awakes, their object accomplished after the November election, turned their attention to military drill during the tense winter days in 1861. The Chicago which heard the call to arms after the fall of Fort Sumter was not altogether unprepared.

On April 19th the Secretary of War telegraphed Governor Yates to take possession of Cairo as an important strategic point. General R. K. Swift of Chicago was at once ordered by the governor to proceed to Cairo as speedily as possible with such forces as he could muster. There were but few military organizations in the state, and few guns to equip volunteers. So willing was his call for six regiments met that Chicago could boast that the whole force could be obtained in that city alone. On the night of April 21st, General Swift was on his way to the supposed danger point with seven companies, number 595 men, armed and equipped. They boarded the Illinois Central train for

Cairo. Among them were the Lincoln Rifles commanded by Captain Geza Mihalotzy, a company composed mainly of Hungarians, Bohemians, and men of Slavic blood, two companies of the Chicago Zouaves, the Turner Union Cadets made up of Germans, many of whom had seen service in the Revolution of 1848, the Chicago Light Artillery, and Captain Frederick Harding's company. General Swift took possession of Cairo with about 1,000 men, a few cannon. Slugs were hastily molded to take the place of shot and shell. Cairo, at the mouth of the Ohio, was very important as the key to the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi. Located as far south as Richmond, the Confederate capital, and very near the seat of war, it was valuable as a depot of supplies. Then, too, had the Confederates been able to seize it they could have controlled the Illinois Central Railroad and its branches.

The railroads of Illinois played a very important part during the Civil War in transporting soldiers, ammunition and supplies to the fronts. In 1850 there were only 111 miles of railroad in Illinois. The leading railroad of the state, the Illinois Central which was incorporated in 1851, was completed from Cairo to Chicago, and from Centralia to East Dubuque, in 1856. At that time its total mileage in the state was 705 miles. Its service to the nation as a means of transporting troops and supplies during the civil war can hardly be over estimated. The Illinois Central was called upon to serve the Union and took the first detachment of troops that left Chicago for the front, landing them in Cairo at very short notice. This was in April, 1861, and for nearly five years subsequent thereto, the demands of the government were simply immense at times, monopolizing the entire carrying facilities of the

lines. The position of the road was such that it held the key to the transportation problem between the Union forces and those in rebellion especially in the valley of the Mississippi.

Had the Illinois Central been designed and built solely for military service, it probably could not have been better suited to the needs of the government in coping with the grave situation with which it was confronted. No one knew this better than President Lincoln and General McClellan, who had been in the service of the Railroad in the years preceding the war, or than General Grant, whose home was on the Illinois Central at Galena. As the only direct rail route from Chicago to the Upper Mississippi Valley Region to the Ohio Region, the Illinois Central Railroad played an important part or role in the transporting of soldiers, horses, foodstuffs, military supplies and mails to Cairo for distribution by rail and river to the military and naval forces in the lower Mississippi Valley.

There were twelve principal railroads in Illinois in 1860. The Illinois Central, 705 miles, Galena and Chicago Union, 261 miles, Chicago, Alton and St. Louis, 220 miles, Terre Haute, Alton and St. Louis, 208 miles, Great Western, 182 miles, Chicago and Rock Island, 181 miles, Logansport and Peoria and Burlington, 171 miles, Ohio and Mississippi, 148 miles, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 138 miles, Quincy and Chicago, 100 miles, Peoria and Oquawka, 94 miles, Chicago and Northwestern, 66 miles. The total mileage in 1860 amounted to 2,790 miles more than any other state.⁷¹

 71 Corliss, C. J., Trails to Rails, Chicago, Illinois, 1934, 86, 90.

10. Springfield buzzes with great activity:- The outbreak of war wrought a great change at the state capital. It became a very busy place. The governor was besieged with those offering their services, some moved by patriotism, some whose only aim was personal gain. Some offering their money, their influence, to aid their country in its time of peril. They came singly, or with companies, detachments, and squads. With the loyal and deserving there came also the speculator, the trader, and the bumner, men whose only aim was their own promotion and personal gain. All parties and classes and every shade of character were represented; and the demand for places largely exceeded the supply.

Under the laws of congress and regulations of the war department the authority to appoint and commission officers or volunteer regiments, field, staff, and line, was vested in the governors of the respective states. Company-officers were generally appointed in the first instance upon the recommendation or election of the men, and field-officers upon the recommendation of the commissioned officers of the regiment. As a rule to reward services in the field and personal merit, as well as to encourage and stimulate non-commissioned officers and privates, promotions were made to field-officers regimentally, and to line-officers by companies.

Among those who found their way to Springfield at this time was Captain U. S. Grant, late of the regular army. He came from Galena, bringing with him a letter of recommendation from the Honorable E. B. Washburne. Major, afterward Colonel, Thomas P. Robb of the governor's staff, having observed Grant waiting with other strangers in the governor's anteroom, apparently for

an interview, and learning from him that he was desirous of offering his services to the state, introduced him to his excellency. Robb was impressed with the modest deportment of the visitor, and when the governor made the routine reply to Grant's offer, that he knew of no opening just then, that every place was filled, and appealed to Robb to confirm his statement, the latter replied, that he believed they were short of help in the adjutant's office; and proposed that Grant should be given a desk there for the time being. The governor readily consented, and Grant was accordingly set at work under Colonel Mather, arranging, filing, and copying papers.

One morning, a few days afterward, Governor Yates informed Major Robb that the services of a regular-army officer had become indispensable in the camps of rendezvous to perfect organizations and keep down insubordination; and ordered him to proceed to Cincinnati to procure the services of a captain of the regular army then there; Captain John Pope, who had been stationed at Camp Yates, having been ordered to St. Louis. To this order, Captain Grant, who had quietly entered the room, was a listener. He reminded the governor of his military training and former experience in the army, which seemed to have been overlooked, and suggested that he could be made much more useful in the service than in occupying a subordinate clerical position. Yates replied, "Why, Captain, you are just the man we want!" And on that day, Grant was installed as commandant of Camp Yates. He remained in the state service, discharging camp duties and mustering in regiments at various points, from May 8 to June 26, 1861. So efficient was he that on June 16 he was put in command of the 21st Illinois regiment. He soon

distinguished himself, and on August 23, 1861, was made brigadier general and stationed at Cairo. He gained control of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers and saved the Ohio for the Union. Characterized by a thorough knowledge of military measures and men, persistent, cool and courageous in danger, careful of the wants of the humblest soldier, plain, quiet, modest, yet inspiring confidence, Grant came to be the head of all the armies of the United States, and more than any other general brought about the downfall of the Confederacy.

11. Enlistments under different calls:- The six regiments apportioned to Illinois under the first call for volunteers were raised, organized, and sent to Cairo during the latter part of April and first part of May. These six regiments were at first mustered in for only three months, but at the expiration of their term of service, 2,000 out of the 4,680 volunteers having reenlisted, they were reorganized and remustered for three years.

The President's call for additional troops on May 3, 1861 was greeted with hilarity. Two hundred companies at once tendered their services. The enlistment and formation of new companies continued unabated. Over 30,000 men had offered their services and as many more were ready to do so. "It is almost impossible," explained the Ottawa Free Trader, "for us to keep tract of all the military companies formed and forming." Governor Yates was in a dilemma. He was reluctant to accept a surplus of volunteers because of the heavy expense which would necessarily be borne by the state until if and when, they would be accepted by the War Department. Yet thousands were clamoring for acceptance into Illinois regiments.

Under the second call of the president, the ten regiments, one from each congressional district, for whose formation provision had already been made, were organized from the two hundred companies immediately tendered, and were mustered into service within sixty days. The large number of volunteers in excess of what could be received in Illinois, enlisted in Missouri and other states, a sufficient number in some instances to constitute a majority of their respective companies and regiments, and which were subsequently changed into Illinois regiments, namely, the Ninth Missouri to the Fifty-ninth Illinois, and the Birge sharpshooters to the Sixty-sixth Illinois.

In May, June, and July, 1861, seventeen additional infantry, and five cavalry regiments were authorized by the secretary of war, and speedily raised and organized. The following regiments were organized: 23rd Infantry, 24th Infantry, 25th Infantry, 33rd Infantry, 34th Infantry, 35th Infantry, 36th Infantry, 37th Infantry, 39th Infantry, 40th Infantry, 41st Infantry, 42nd Infantry, 44th Infantry, 45th Infantry, 47th Infantry, 52nd Infantry, 55th Infantry, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 11th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Regiment.⁷²

The Union disaster at Bull Run, July 21, 1861, electrified the Union. The most important results of the battle were psychological. The North learned that the South could not easily be conquered, and began to prepare for a long struggle; while the South, believing that a few more easy victories would bring the enemy to terms, made no serious preparations for a protracted war.

⁷² Adjutant-General Reports, I, 134.

Following the battle the policy of the administration regarding the acceptance of volunteers had to change. Congress immediately passed Acts authorizing the chief executive to receive 500,000 men into military service. Action became the keynote. No longer was it thought that the South could be coerced in 90 days. Yates, having been advised that additional troops were being received, telegraphed Cameron by order on July 23 that Illinois desired to tender 13 additional regiments of infantry, three of cavalry, and one battalion of light artillery. Cameron by order of the President, wired his acceptance on July 25th and urged that the men be sent forward with all possible dispatch. Thousands of the sturdy sons of Illinois who had been disappointed in the first two calls now rushed in their claim of acceptance.

The months of July and August, 1861 witnessed a decided slowing down in recruiting. Until then enlistments had progressed fairly well. A great obstacle in 1861 was the poverty of the soldier's families and this became increasingly important as the war progressed and the cost of living rose. Men were often ready to accept the call if their families were provided for.

To meet these difficulties and overcome the obstacles which were in the way of preventing the men from volunteering various agencies at once pledged financial support. Thus we see again the martial and patriotic spirit being instilled in outstanding citizens of Illinois through these agencies and groups. The sum of \$4,000 was subscribed at Decatur in two hours.⁷³ County and city councils, often meeting in special sessions, voted thousands of dollars. By June, 1861, citizens of Chicago had realised over \$36,466 to

⁷³ McCormack, 132.

equip companies and to aid soldiers' families.

Physicians of Decatur not only pledged themselves to care for the families of the volunteers free of charge, but also agreed to provide medicines.⁷⁴ In response to the seriousness of the situation, the Secretary of War decided to carry out an Act of Congress authorizing soldiers to allot their pay to their families. With entire monthly salary of the private which amounted to fifty cents a day plus a bounty of \$100 to be paid at the end of war, a family could hardly have been provided with the bare necessities.⁷⁵ Nevertheless, Illinois actively responded to the calls of the President in 1861.

By December 3, 1861, Illinois had in the field, besides the six regiments first sent out, 43,000 volunteers and 17,000 in camps of instruction. During December, 4,160 troops enlisted, and were consolidated with old or new organizations and sent to the field. And thus nobly had Illinois responded in the defense of the Union during the first year of the war.

12. Further calls for troops:- The year 1862, so far as military operations were concerned, opened with a discouraging outlook, which was only dispelled by the first decisive victory of the war at Fort Donelson on February 15, 1862 and the results of the terrible two days conflict at Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862. These successes in the West, however, were counterbalanced by reverses in the East. Washington was threatened, and our army was unable to make that headway against the rebellion which was expected from so vast an

74 Ibid., 136.

75 Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, V. 34, 689.

outlay of men and means. The failure of McClellan to capture Richmond in the peninsular campaign of 1862 produced consternation in Washington. Secretary of War, Stanton, telegraphed Governor Yates that there was "no doubt but that the enemy in great force was marching on Washington" and urged him to forward immediately "all volunteers and militia forces" in the state. Illinois, for the first time during the war, was in no position to answer the call.

The order of December 4, 1861, which inaugurated the national recruiting system, had worked havoc with the recruiting organization of the Governor, and the order of April 3, 1862, which entirely suspended state recruiting, served to dissolve what remnants remained of the Yates organization. Governor Yates at once set out to raise troops by issuing a patriotic appeal, especially for three year men, to be used as a guard for the rebel prisoners who were being held at Camp Douglas near Chicago.

On July 6, 1862, another call was made for 300,000 additional volunteers; but the people were despondent, and enlistments were at first slow and half-hearted. Governor Yates felt that the time had come for the nation to avail itself of the services of colored men and slaves, and believed that by offering this class proper inducements, a strong diversion against the rebellion would be made in the slave-states. On July 11, 1862, he dispatched an open letter to the president, urging him to summon all men to the defense of the government, loyalty alone being the dividing line between the nation and its foes. His closing words were: "In any event, Illinois will respond to your call; but adopt this policy, and she will spring like a flaming

giant into the fight."⁷⁶

On August 5, such were the supposed necessities of the government, a call was issued for 300,000 men to serve nine months, any deficiency in response to which was to be filled through a draft. The quota of Illinois on these two calls was 52,296, but as she had already furnished 16,198 men in excess of former quotas, the claim was made that the totals would only be 35,320. This claim, however, was not allowed by the government, and the full number was insisted upon. The state was given until September 1, 1862, to raise this number of men, and thus avoid a draft.

The floating population had already been swept into the army; the new levies, therefore, must come from the better classes - the permanent, influential, and prosperous citizens. The country was aroused as never before. Meetings were held throughout the state, which were addressed by the governor and others. The patriotic furor was as intense as it was contagious, all classes being affected and moved as by a common impulse. The farmer left his plow in the furrow, the mechanic his tools on the bench, the merchant his counter--lawyers, doctors, ministers, and laborers, all animated by the same spirit, rallied to enroll themselves among their country's defenders.

So spontaneous was the response to the president's calls that before eleven days had elapsed both quotas had been more than filled. A rally to the country's standard as remarkable as it was unexampled in the world's history. Six of the new regiments organized were sent to the field in August, 1862, twenty-two in September, 1862, thirteen in October, 1862,

⁷⁶ Moses, 659.

fifteen in November, 1862, and three in December, 1862, making an aggregate, with artillery, of fifty-nine regiments and four batteries, numbering 53,819 enlisted men and officers. In addition to the above, 2,753 men were enlisted and sent to old regiments. With these and the cavalry regiments organized, the whole number of enlistments under the two calls was 68,416, making a grand total in the field under all calls, at the close of the year 1862, of 135,440.⁷⁷

Toward the close of the war, in consequence of an imperfect enrollment of those subject to military duty, it became evident that the state of Illinois was furnishing thousands in excess of what a correct estimate would have required.⁷⁸ So glorifying had this disproportion become, that under the last call the quota in a number of sub-districts exceeded the number of able-bodied men. Yet the people, when it was found inexpedient to correct the enrollment, determined to raise the number required, believing that in the extraordinary exigencies of the times the safety of the country demanded the sacrifice.

Let the thousands of brave men which the State of Illinois thus provided remain a proud monument of the patriotism which so triumphantly sustained the country in the hour of danger. "The officers and soldiers of the regiments of Illinois evinced the highest soldierly qualities and fully sustained the proud record which had ever been attained in the field, and the state and county owe them lasting gratitude."

77 Adjutant-General Report, I, II, 138, 142.

78 T. M. Eddy, The Patriotism of Illinois, I, II, Clarke and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1865, 234.

CHAPTER III

MAJOR CITIES, THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, SYMPATHIES AND THEIR UNITING INFLUENCE INSTILLED THE MARTIAL SPIRIT IN THE CITIZENS OF ILLINOIS

1. Population of Illinois active and foreign in 1860:- Illinois on the 12th of April, 1861, was possessed of a population of 1,711,951. The state was rapidly springing forward to the first among the states, not only in population but as well in the intelligence, loyalty, and bravery of her people and in its vast resources of wealth. In all those resources which go to make a great state, Illinois stood second to no other state in the Union.

From early periods of Illinois' statehood continental European races had found their way to the state as the land of promise; but now their coming was to be measured not in hundreds but in thousands. The foreign born population of Illinois showed a most remarkable development during this period. In 1860 there were 324,643 foreign born in the state of whom 41,745 were English; 87,573 were Irish; 10,540 Scotch; 20,132 British American, and of all the foreign elements the most important was the German with about 130,804. The percentage of the native and foreign born population in Illinois as taken from the 8th United States Census in 1860 shows the following: native 81.03%, foreign 18.97% distributed among the English 2.44%, the Irish 5.12%; the German 7.65% and others about 3.76%.⁷⁹

About one half of the whole foreign element was in Chicago. The elements with strongest representation down state are the English, German and Swedish. The following will show the population of the major cities and counties of Illinois in the year 1860:

79 Kennedy, Joseph, C.G., Population in U.S. in 1860 Compiled from 8th U.S. Census.

	<u>Native:</u>	<u>Foreign:</u>	<u>White:</u>	<u>Colored:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Adams County Quincy	32,009	9,314	13,566	152	13,718
Alexander County Cairo	3,677	1,030	2,141	47	2,188
Cook County Chicago	73,081	71,873	108,305	955	109,260
Jo Daviess County Galena	18,069	9,256	8,044	152	8,196
Kane County Aurora Elgin	22,713	7,339	5,999 2,797	12 --	6,011 2,797
LaSalle County LaSalle Ottawa	34,341	13,991	3,993 6,522	-- 19	3,993 6,541
McClellan County Bloomington	25,063	3,709	6,930	145	7,075
Macon County Decatur	12,520	1,218	3,761	78	3,839
Madison County Alton	20,332	10,919	6,145	187	6,332
Morgan County Jacksonville	18,467	3,645	5,372	156	5,528
Peoria County Peoria	27,432	9,169	13,936	109	14,045
Rock Island County Rock Island	15,620	5,385	5,109	21	5,130
St. Clair County Bellville	21,340	16,354	7,435	85	7,520
Sangamon County Springfield	26,943	5,331	9,117	203	9,320
Union County Anna	10,698	483	769	--	769

	<u>Native:</u>	<u>Foreign:</u>	<u>White:</u>	<u>Colored:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Will County	19,782	9,539			
Joliet			7,066	38	7,104
Lockport			2,805	17	2,822
Plainfield			1,725	--	1,725
Winnebago County	19,565	4,926			
Rockford			6,946	33	6,979

The population of Bloomington from 1850 to 1860 underwent a remarkable change. Instead of a purely American community, as in 1850, the year 1860 found here a large sprinkling, in all, perhaps 2,000 or more, of foreigners, who had come to stay. The building of the two railroads had brought a large number of Irish workmen, and their presence induced the settlement of many of the best class of Irish, men of education and means, who cast in their lot with their countrymen, forming in the aggregate a very valuable element of the total population of the city.

The increase of Germans was also very large, particularly in the years 1854 to 1858. They were a hard working, well-behaved class, who, with their successors, have now become numerous. ⁸⁰ In the city of Springfield are found many people of Portuguese ancestry who began settling in late 1849.

A very large portion of foreign population is to be found in the western part of Madison County, principally at Alton. Among the first foreign born citizens at Alton we find G. T. Brown and Joseph Brown, Scotchmen who were in Alton in 1836. A few Pennsylvania Germans are found among the early settlers

⁸⁰ Le Baron, W., History of McLean County, Illinois, Wm. LeBaron and Company, 186 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, 1879, 338.

of Alton. The first foreigners seeking a home on the banks of the Mississippi and Missouri, were a number of French Colonists arriving here within the first half of the eighteenth century settling near the missionary depots of Kaskaskia and Cahokia. Among these first rivals we find several Swiss and a few Germans from Alsace. Collinsville, city as well as township, has also numerous population of foreign birth. A few French, some Irish and Bohemians and many Germans.

A large number of Bohemians have settled in this and adjacent townships. They number about 500 in this County of Madison and they are true descendants of the ancient Czecks, a robust and industrious people, whose highest ambition is to have and own their own home and fireside. Tired of military despotism and overbearing and oppressive aristocracy, they converted their scanty means into money and emigrated to this country. When they arrived here they were not disappointed. They were naturalized and became citizens as soon as the laws of the state would permit them to do so, and during the Civil War, twenty-two of their small number immediately took up arms in the defense of the glorious stars and stripes. The majority of the Bohemians of Madison County consist of well to do farmers, the balance of tradesmen, mechanics and laborers.

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The largest foreign element in St. Clair County is the German. Many immigrants came from Germany and to this day are settled in Bellville, St. Clair County. Many important public offices in this county are largely held by thrifty Germans and their descendants. Hecker, Koerner and thousands of

81 History of Madison County, Illinois, W. R. Brink and Company, Edwardsville, Illinois, 1882, 107.

others will live long in the memory of the people of Illinois.⁸²

2. Martial spirit instilled in the citizens of Illinois. Major cities, their sympathies and contributions:- When on April 12, 1861, the flag of the Union was assaulted, Illinois though hoping for peace, was prepared for war so far as men were concerned. The whole state of Illinois was aglow with a fire of patriotism never before known or equalled. The news of the fall of Fort Sumter found the cities of Illinois assembled in mass meetings, in which party lines were in a moment obliterated. Illinois had no munitions of war, she had no supplies ready at hand for an army in the field, but she had thousands of men as noble as ever marched or braved the dangers of a battle, who were ready. Illinois responded gloriously, the spirit of her citizens was mobilized and her sons went forth marching and shouting for flag and country.

War mass meetings were held in every village and town to encourage enlistments; subscriptions were taken to aid prospective recruits in making the decision; funds were raised to contribute to the relief of families of volunteers; boards of supervisors and city authorities were called upon to offer bounties in addition to those held out by the general government. Sixty-nine counties had an expenditure of \$15,307,074 for bounties in aid of raising troops, says the Rockford Democrat on August 24, 1864.

Strangely enough the most satisfactory response to appeals for enlistment came from the Democratic counties in southern Illinois. True, there had prevailed at first a disposition to regard the contest as an aggressive war on the part of a new President, and therefore a corresponding reluctance to

82 History of St. Clair County, Illinois, Brink, McDonough and Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1881, 306.

take up arms, but, the war having become a reality, the feeling grew among the people of Egypt that they had to see the thing through. Even under the first call, the Cairo district in the extreme southern end of the state offered more companies than could be received. When in the summer of 1861 John A. Logan, "the little Egyptian Giant," tendered his service to the Union, following the lead of John A. McClernand, who had already become a Brigadier-General, the tide was turned in favor of the Union; the response to Logan's call for a regiment to follow him was immediate.

Henceforth, Egypt, following the advice of Douglas, was tendering troops not by companies but by regiments, it not only filled its quotas, but usually piled up a surplus. On the 1st of October, 1863, the ten extreme counties of southern Illinois were officially credited with an excess of nearly 50%. Old Democratic strongholds charged with copperheadism, offered recruits with a generosity that shamed their opponents, said the Cairo Democrat, February 22, 1865.

All over the North the cry went up: "The Union must and shall be preserved." In every humble village, town and city of Illinois was heard the hum of preparation for war. At the outbreak on the 12th of April, 1861, LaSalle County had at this time less than 50,000 inhabitants. With a population mainly devoted to agriculture, who knew nothing of war except by history or tradition, it could hardly be expected that a war like spirit would soon disturb the peaceful population. But we know little of the fire that slumbers in quiet breasts until the occasion calls it forth. Under the call for 75,000 volunteers, the quota of Illinois was fixed at 6 regiments. The

response was prompt from all parts of the state and from none more hearty than from LaSalle County. Being but a few hours ride by rail to Springfield, the first companies raised in this county were among the first to be accepted by the Governor for the service of the United States. From that time on the patriotic county poured forth to fight its country's battles a continuous procession of volunteers, and in all more than 5,000 enlistments were credited to LaSalle County or 10% of the population, and 50% of the voting strength.⁸³

Immediately after the news was flashed through LaSalle County that Civil War was begun, public excitement ran so high that it could no longer confine itself to confused expressions about the street corners, and people held informal and formal meetings in the city halls, and country school houses every where. In Ottawa, without much previous notice, the patriotic citizens found themselves, on the very day that Governor Yates' proclamation was issued, with one accord in one place--the court house--where it was sought to give more emphatic expression to the general feelings through the medium of formal speeches and resolutions. P. K. Leland was called to the chain. Speeches were made by Captain O. C. Gray, Hon. William Reddick, and J. O. Glover of Ottawa and H. W. Hopkins of Morris. All their remarks were in the high patriotic vein, and urged the duty of every good citizen to stand by the government and Union, and, in the words of one speaker, "to give the secessionists fits."⁸⁴

On April 18, 1861 the court house was again thronged, and speeches were

83 History of LaSalle County, Illinois, Inter-State Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1886, I, 296.

84 Ibid., 297.

made by Judge Dickey, William Reddick and T. B. Delano. Most of the remarks were vociferously applauded. The meeting closed by the unanimous adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That we will stand by the flag of our country in this her most trying hour, cost what it may of blood or treasure."⁸⁵

Ottawa was the earliest to respond with material support in the form of volunteers. In six days from the date of Governor Yates' proclamation, five companies were organized, three of them being accepted and two waiting the Governor's orders. Captain Charles Houghtaling's company was the first organized on April 18; three companies, under Captains W. L. Gibson, Burleson, and Reed, were organized on April 20th; and Captain T. C. Gibson's company was formed three days later. Captain Houghtaling's and Captain W. L. Gibson's companies were accepted and left for Springfield on Monday, April 22, 1861. Captain T. C. Gibson's company soon followed. Of the two companies not accepted, Captain Burleson's consisted of old men, veterans of the War of 1812, etc., and all men over forty-five years of age. Captain Reed's company was composed principally of Germans, the Turner Society being at the head of the list.

Business in the meantime, was nearly suspended, all the talk of the people being war, all their occupation recruiting, getting up clothing, running after telegram dispatches and reading the latest daily papers. Not only were the gentlemen thus occupied, but the ladies were deeply interested also. In the first week they made and presented no less than three beautiful silk

⁸⁵ Ibid., 298.

flags, and then they all turned with needle and thimble to making clothing to be sent to those who had left, and for others to follow.

It was a sadly interesting moment when the first volunteers left Ottawa. Not only the whole city, but thousands from the country flocked in to see the soldiers off. They were to go by train at 3:00 o'clock. Captain Houghtaling's company was then marched to the court house square, where a large body of ladies, with many thousands of citizens, awaited them to participate in and witness the ceremony of presenting the flag to the company.

The company of Captain W. L. Gibson was marched to the residence of Miss Sarah Miles, where a similar flag was presented to them by the ladies. Miss Ellen Fisher acting as spokesman said: "Beloved soldiers: We present you this banner. It is the flag of our native land. It represents our dearest hopes for our country, home and life. Our hands have made it, yours must defend it, and if needed for that purpose, the choicest blood in your veins, we doubt not, will be freely poured out. Our best wishes attend you..... See to it that this flag is never insulted with impunity. God Bless you, and God bless our native land. Farewell." The companies were then escorted to the depot by a monster procession of citizens and at 3 o'clock amid many sad farewells, the companies left on the cars for the tented fields.

Thus within a week there left Ottawa 300 men. Most of them were young men. The ladies at once set about making clothes, etc. Over \$1,500 were subscribed to support the families of volunteers requiring such support during their absence, to aid the families of those who might be disabled in the service; to relieve the widows and orphans of those who might fall before their

southern enemies.

The popular feeling was heartily supported by the local press of the county, Democratic and Republican. The Free Trader (Democratic) said: "This then is our position. We acknowledge allegiance to the Government of the United States of which A. Lincoln is the head. When the rightful authority of that government is assailed.....we become traitors if we refuse to respond to that call." A special meeting of the board of supervisors of LaSalle County was called and was attended by thirty-one men. They passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this board appropriate \$8.00 to each volunteer mustered into service of U.S. That this board appropriate \$10,000 additional to be expended for support of the families of volunteers from LaSalle County."

At Earlville, Utica and Peru, and other places, companies of "home guards" were enrolled to be tendered to the government should they be needed. A company of Irish volunteers was raised in Ottawa, which was attached to the Irish Brigade of Chicago. In August following, seventeen new regiments were put in service by Governor Yates and among those appointed Colonels were Burton C. Cook, T. Lyle Dickey of LaSalle County. Two more companies were contributed by LaSalle County to the Irish Brigade, the Douglas Guards of LaSalle, Captain Moriarty and the Earl Rifles of Earlville. A company under Captain Rusk became Company "C" 12th Regiment and Ottawa Rifles, under Captain Jacques, left for camp Butler in August. This made eleven companies, or considerably over 1,000 men furnished before war was scarcely begun in earnest.

The people of Joliet received the startling news on April 14th, 1861

with great excitement. People on their way to church, hearing the news, forgot their errand, and the day, and gathered at street corners and discussed the situation. A retired clergyman, on hearing the news, took down his rusty rifle, cleaned it up, moulded a lot of bullets and then went down the river a mile or so, and refreshed his practice in gunnery by shooting at a mark. Having satisfied himself that he had not lost his skill, he marched back in line of battle, with his gun loaded and capped, ready for the combat!

The news reached the quiet village of Plainfield about noon. McAllister's old gun was at once taken to the common, and vigorously fired. The bells were rung. The Congregational Church was thrown open to the people. On Wednesday succeeding April 17th on receipt of the call of the President for 75,000 men, a meeting was held at the court house by Mayor Bowen for the purpose of expressing public opinion and for taking preliminary steps toward forming a company to defend the stars and stripes. The court house was filled to overflowing.

A committee was appointed to draft resolutions and the meeting was addressed in stirring speeches by Snapp, Bowen, Streeter, Breckenridge and others. But it was felt that the crisis called for something more than words. A paper pledging those who signed it to enlistment in defense of the government was drawn up, and an opportunity was given to anyone who was willing to do so to sign. A young lawyer of the name of Fred A. Bartleson, sprang to his feet, and after a brief and eloquent speech, walked up to the table, with the remark, that he would ask no one to do what he was not willing to do himself, signed his name as the first volunteer of Joliet, Will County. Others

followed his example the same night to the number of twenty-seven. At a special meeting a resolution was passed calling upon the County Clerk to issue a call for a special meeting of the board of supervisors. At the close of this meeting the roll of the company which had been headed by Bartleson was filled. It took the name of "Union Grays." At this meeting, also T. Q. Hildebrant, a well known lawyer and politician, a Douglas Democrat, announced that he would open an enlistment roll the next morning at the court house.

Public meetings were now held almost every evening, the city of Joliet and Will County doing its full share in "the great uprising" which characterized the time. Nothing was talked of or thought of but war, although as yet the government had not waked up to a full appreciation of the crisis, and Secretary Seward still talked of settling the matter "in sixty days."

In pursuance of the recommendation of the meeting of the 19th, the Clerk issued a call for a special meeting of the board of supervisors on the 30th of April. By April 27th sufficient names to form two companies had been enrolled. These companies afterwards became "B" and "F" of the 20th Regiment of Illinois Infantry.

Meetings were meantime being held in all the towns and villages of Will County and recruiting forwarded to Joliet, and the city began to assume quite a war-like appearance. The spirit-stirring drum and fife were heard at all hours and there was with few exception, scarcely a man that was not willing that his neighbor should enlist.

The State authorities were fully alive to the situation. On April 19th

Governor Yates ordered Brig.-Gen. Swift to hold Cairo. Among the first to go to the defense of Cairo were McAllister's Battery of Plainfield, and Captain Howley's of Lockport. These companies had been organized some years before as amateur companies, and now were quickly available in the emergency. Captain Howley's company placed the first gun in position for the defense of Cairo. The Plainfield Company was stationed for a few days at the bridge over the Big Muddy and at arriving at Cairo was mustered into the three months service as Company "K" and part of Company "I" of the 10th Regiment of Illinois Infantry. The Lockport Company was never mustered into service of the United States, and only acted as state militia, and although never engaged in actual warfare, it, with others rendered important service.

The clergy and laity of Joliet and Will County were not idle. So far as is known, without exception, all the pulpits were outspoken for the Union and the suppression of the rebellion. Four at least from Will County, entered service as chaplains during the course of the war, and in the army were untiring in their efforts for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the volunteers.

The Board of Supervisors met at the call of the Clerk, April 30th, and appropriated \$5,000 for families of volunteers and to defray the expense of enlistment. On the first of May Judge Douglas passed through Joliet on his way to Chicago and from the rear platform of the train addressed thousands which had assembled to greet him. He had, on invitation, addressed the assembled legislature of the State on the 25th of April, upon the crisis, and in no doubtful language had given his views as to the duty of all patriots to uphold the government in the exigency, and to sink all political and party

differences; now he repeated the same sentiments to the assembled crowd in Joliet. His speech in Joliet was thoroughly patriotic. He advised his party friends, supporters and admirers, of whom there were many in this city, probably a majority, to rally to the support of the administration, and to forget all minor, all party considerations, until the authority of the government and the laws were fully re-established. All the towns in Will County were now alive with excitement and were engaged in encouraging enlistments and in raising funds for the aid societies.

Especially in Joliet the excitement was intense. It was almost impossible to resist the impulse to enlist. One young man from the town of Reed, happening to be in the city, was so carried away with the enthusiasm that, without waiting to consult with his widowed mother, he enrolled his name among the defenders of the country. Instead of meeting rebuke which he feared, he received from her the following letter: "My dear son: I have been informed that you enlisted in defense of our country. It does seem as though I could not let you go without seeing you again. But I feel that you are in a good cause. Do honor to your self and your country, and do not turn your back upon the bullets, and may God bless you and keep you." And how many such mothers there were all over the land.

A large share of those who enlisted at this time, and subsequently had been the political opponents of the administration. Captains Erwin and Hildebrandt had been Captains of companies of the "Ever Readys" in the then late presidential campaign; but, now they threw aside party badges for the stars and stripes, and enlisted to serve under the commander whose election they

had so lately opposed.

The Democrats of Joliet took down the hickory pole which had stood through the political campaign on the public square, gay with streamers and flags emblazoned with party watch words and devices, and erected it in Camp Goodell, and run up the stars and stripes.

It took Bull Run to wake up the government. There were further calls for more men. Other towns in Will County were active. A company was organized at Wilmington by Captain Munn and at Wilmington and vicinity, another by Captain Hooker. These became companies "A" and "E" of the 39th Regiment, popularly known as the Yates Phalanx.

The city of Wilmington was early active. Mr. M. Stewart and others, commenced immediately on the first call to raise a cavalry company, and it was fast filling up, when, learning that there was no probability that it would be accepted, it was disbanded and the members went, many of them into other organizations. Mr. Stewart joined the independent company which was raised in Chicago known as the "Backers Dragoons." Stewart divides with Bartleson the honor of being the first recruit from Will County, having enlisted at Chicago, April 16, 1861. And so passed the summer of 1861. The Lockport Company of Artillery came home in August, after four months service as militia, and also many of the Plainfield Battery, who did not enlist in the Battery for three years. Many of both companies entered the service in other organizations. And so Will county can justly claim a share in the glory of its achievements.⁸⁶

⁸⁶ Woodruff, George H., Patriotism of Will County, James Goodspeed publishers, Joliet, Illinois, 1876. 16-45.

Decatur of Macon County by this time had a good start toward becoming a real city. Its population reached almost 4,000. Decatur was stunned Sunday morning April 14, 1861, when the news came that Fort Sumter had fallen. It was almost unbelievable. Though war had been threatening, few believed that an open break between the north and south would come. The news was read from pulpits of the churches, and it was received in awe and silence. The people recognized its significance, they had not the faintest idea that it was the beginning of a long four year bloody struggle. But the American flag had been fired upon. The fort had surrendered. That was enough. That day patriotism burst forth as it had never been seen before.

Every family in Decatur hunted up its flag. Within a short time the banner was waving in the breeze from public buildings and from homes. When the news was confirmed the following day and the President's proclamation asking for volunteers came, Decatur was aroused. The spirit of war had entered. Patriotic zeal spread as the hours passed. Printing presses were put into service to make flags. Every man and woman was supplied with an individual flag to wear. It was almost unsafe to be without one. Patriotic speeches filled the air.

Within an hour after Governor Yates had issued his call for Illinois volunteers, John P. Post had opened a recruiting office in Powers Hall. Enlistments poured in as fast as the names could be written. The next day I. N. Martin opened a recruiting office in the court house. By Tuesday night two full companies of one hundred men each had been sworn into service. They hurried to Springfield and became Companies "A" and "B" of the 8th Regiment

of which Richard J. Oglesby was made Colonel.

The women folks could not enlist but there was something they could do and they lost no time in doing it. That was the making of the flag for the "boys," to carry to the war. Every woman wanted to have a hand in the making of the flag. So determined were they to have a share, that it was found necessary to let each do only a few stitches. No one was allowed to complete even one star. In many of the stars each point was made by a different one. The women met at the Revere house to make the flag, and more than a hundred put stitches into it.

When the 8th Regiment was sent to Cairo a stop was made in Decatur for the presentation of the flag. The two Decatur companies were given an hours leave from the train for the exercises. The presentation of the flag took place in Central Park in the presence of a huge crowd. Following the singing of "America" by the crowd and prayers by Father Stamper, the presentation speech was made by Mrs. Cal Allen, while Hattie White held the flag. The eloquent response made by Richard J. Oglesby swayed the emotions of the crowd to a high pitch. Finally the hour was up, the order to march came and Decatur's first contingent of soldiers was off to war! Before the war was over Macon County had furnished about 2,500 men for the Army.

The four years of war were times of stress and anxiety in Decatur. Time after time the call for troops was answered by Macon County men until there were large numbers of them at the front, many of whom never returned.

Decatur had the distinction of furnishing five generals to the nation in the Civil War. Besides these, it gave many lesser officers who performed

noble service and whose valor will always be remembered. The generals were: General Gus A. Smith; General R. J. Oglesby; General Issac C. Pugh; General Jesse H. Moore; General Herman Lieb.⁸⁷

At the beginning of the Civil War, Bloomington and McClean County were not found unprepared to meet the terrible responsibilities. This city and county had given in the previous November election, the largest majority for the Republican ticket, with Mr. Lincoln at its head, that it had ever given any party on any subject. McClean County was justly regarded as the political center of Illinois. Here in Bloomington, the Republican party was born in Major's Hall, on Front Street. Mr. Lincoln's name first appeared in the columns of a public newspaper in this city as a candidate for the president.

The citizens of McClean County had done more to place him before the American people than those of any other County, East or West. Therefore, much was expected from her and nobly did she respond.

Whatever differences of political sentiments might have been before, when the one question of the hour arose union or disunion there was but one response, "The Union must and shall be preserved." A little calculation will show whether the people of McClean County were worthy of the great confidence which was reposed in them. The census of 1860 puts the population of the County at 28,772. Suppose one-half of the population to be female and one-half to be children and aged persons, and we have left about 7500. Well,

87 Richmond, N. E., Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County, Pub. by Decatur Review, Decatur, Illinois, 1930, 216-248.

McClellan County sent over 4,000 men into the Union Armies, showing quite evidently, that the County sent more than one-half of her able bodied men into the field.

The first company raised in the County, early in the summer of 1861, under the call of President Lincoln, was that of Captain Harvey. They mustered in at Springfield, a full company, and joined the 8th Regiment. Quite a number of the boys shed tears at the disappointment in not getting into the service for there were too many of them. They spent most of their time at Cairo, and when at the expiration of their time the 8th Regiment was re-organized nearly all of Captain Harvey's company re-enlisted and remained with him in the 8th Regiment.

Under the call of the President for 300,000 men in the summer of 1862, when the light began to break, upon the people of the Northern states as to the kind of job they had on their hands, the 33rd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers was raised. This Regiment was largely made up of Normal students from all parts of the state, with a large element of McClellan County boys, in its composition. Co. "A" was made up of men from all parts of the state. As Normal students most of them had been under volunteer drill for some time. They became the first company ready to make up the 33rd Regiment and the rallying center for other companies.

Professor L. H. Potter of the Normal University was chosen captain. Company "C" was a McClellan County group, with Dr. E. R. Roe for Captain. This County sent into the field more than 4,000 volunteers constituting more than one-half of the population liable to military duty, and thousands upon

thousands of dollars were privately and publicly poured out to encourage the men to do their duty and to make them and their families comfortable.

Bloomington is entitled to rank with the most patriotic cities in the land. Its list of heroes must be included in the county records, as there is no way of fairly separating the city from the County; but it is proper that mention be made here of some of the stirring events that took place in the city itself.

When Fort Sumter was fired upon, the city of Bloomington with a population of about 8,000, was not behind the rest of the land in its readiness to respond. A public meeting was held at once, when speeches were made that gave evidence of the patriotic feelings of the people. The enthusiasm for the old flag was deep and earnest. Cheers, shouts and excitement abounded. Volunteers were called for, and in an incredibly short time, a company was raised for the three month service, largely made up of energetic and enthusiastic young men from the city. In three days the company left for Springfield under Captain Harvey, and it served its time at Cairo. As soon as this company was filled, several other companies were at once organized. For a few days it seemed as if every able-bodied man would volunteer. August 26, 1861 about three hundred of the men of the 33rd Illinois Regiment left this city and County for Springfield.

The excitement caused by the destruction, in August, 1862 of the Bloomington Times, a sheet with southern sympathies, too strong for this latitude, was most intense. The soldiers of the 94th Regiment performed this job, aided by uncontrollable spirits who were willing to assist when seeing

that the blame or praise would be awarded to the departing volunteers.

On the 2nd of September, 1862, a dispatch was received from Springfield at about midnight, calling for two-hundred men, instantly to guard a large detachment of rebels stationed at camp Butler. The fire bells rung; the public responded. The required number was enlisted in a few hours, and a little after day light made their appearance at Springfield, creating the utmost astonishment at the patriotic promptitude with which the city of Bloomington volunteered.

Immense sums of money were given in aid of the families of soldiers in the early part of the war, but later, the public sympathy was mainly devoted through the Sanitary Commission. In 1864 as much as \$10,000 was sent in money in one donation, of which Isaac Funk gave \$5,000.

The day before President Lincoln's re-election in 1864 a large body of suspicious looking men came from southern Illinois to Bloomington, and changed cars for Chicago. James Arlin, Jr. the Post-master, telegraphed the circumstances to John Wentworth and others in Chicago, and the result was, that the men were arrested before they reached the city. It afterwards transpired that they were concerned in the famous plot to rescue the rebel prisoners at Camp Douglas, and the dispatch from Bloomington was one of the indications that proved something was being attempted.

In the early part of the war, it seemed that the volunteers paid little attention to filling the muster rolls correctly, and it often happened that nearly a whole company would be credited to Bloomington, when in fact, it was raised in the county at large. So Bloomington like her sister cities

served her state and nation nobly.⁸⁸

When the sad news reached Springfield, Sunday, April 15, 1861, a public meeting of the city was called for Monday evening, which was to be addressed by John A. McClernand, Lyman Trumbull and others. To suit the convenience of the speakers, it was postponed until the following evening, on which occasion thousands of excited citizens assembled to listen to the addresses. The meeting was organized by calling N. M. Broadwell to the chair. Mr. Broadwell accepted the honor in a patriotic and eloquent speech. Mr. McClernan gave a full history of the secession movement, and pronounced secession a dastardly and cowardly way to commit treason. He said he had been a Democrat and was one now, but that he would sacrifice party on the altar of his country. He closed with a powerful appeal to stand unflinchingly by their government and their flag.

Senator Trumbull was next and he was greeted with loud applause. He made a strong and telling speech, and roused the enthusiasm of the people to the highest pitch. Mr. Trumbull closed by introducing Captain Wyatt, of Logan County, who had raised a company of volunteers and, tendered them to the Governor. Mr. Wyatt, was received with loud shouts of applause. He said that he did not come to make a speech; he did not come to see the people, but he did come to see to it that his company was received. He said he was not a man of words, but a man of action. He made a good speech and at its close

88 History of Bloomington and McClean County, Wm. LeBaron, Jr. & Co., Chicago, Illinois 1879, 196-226.

the crowd gave him three cheers.

The Zouave Grays under command of Captain John Cooke, offered their service on Tuesday, and were accepted by the Governor. This was the first company from Sangamon County, and the first on the Adjutant General rolls from the state.

Jacob Bunn, N. H. Ridgely and the Marine and Fire Insurance Company, principal banking institution in Springfield, patriotically offered to Governor Yates a loan of one hundred thousand dollars to facilitate necessary preparation for organizing and collecting the state troops to aid in suppressing the rebellion. The war spirit was evidently high. The Journal, under date of April 20, only five days after the issuance of the proclamation, said, "Springfield is ablaze with excitement. Flags are flying all over the city. The martial music of drums and fifes resounds wherever we turn our steps. Companies are being drilled in almost every hall of sufficient capacity, and, in fact, appearance indicates that something is going to be done. Numbers are employed on military duty, and find scope, for the development of all their energies. Prominent men from different parts of the state are here."

A second company under command of Captain Sands, was accepted from this County, but the good work did not cease. The city council of Springfield, with commendable liberality, appropriated \$10,000 from city treasury, for the purpose of defraying expense attending the equipment of volunteers and for the support of their families while absent.

On Tuesday night April 23, the first troops left Springfield for the seat of war. The year 1862 was a dark one for the Union armies. Even in

Sangamon County were to be found many who believed that the war was prosecuted in vain, and that some compromise or peace measures should be adopted. The government was urgently calling for volunteers, and enlistments were slow at this juncture. War meetings were held all over the county and every effort was made to awaken a more lively interest and to secure enlistments. At Chatham, on the evening of July 19, 1862 an enthusiastic meeting was held. The effect of this meeting was to rouse the unconditional men to renewed action. A mass convention was therefore called and held in Springfield. Strong resolutions were adopted pledging all to faithfully stand by the government until the last traitor was disarmed.

In the winter of 1863-64 much was done in Springfield in aid of soldiers' families. On Saturday of December 13, 1863, notwithstanding the condition of the roads, the farmers hauled to the city and distributed among the needy, 93 loads of wood. The board of supervisors of Sangamon County during the same winter appropriated \$5,000 to aid the suffering. The city of Springfield with a population of 9,320 not only served its country well but also its state as the center of all war activities.⁸⁹

Quincy and Adams County shared in the conflict of opinion, which culminated in the war between the States. A large part of the population were immigrants or the descendants of immigrants, from south of the Ohio river. Many of them believed in the theory of state sovereignty and the condition of slavery for the negro, as a normal form of social order. They hated anti-

89 History of Springfield and Sangamon County, Illinois, Interstate Publishing Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1881, 311-446.

slavery agitation, and inclined to yield to every demand of the pro-slavery leaders. These men had determined to nationalize slavery, to preserve, propagate and perpetuate it. For this end they had secured the "repeal of the Missouri Compromise," the "Dred Scott Decision," and the enactment of the "Fugitive Slave Law." They constantly threatened to withdraw from the union unless their demands were granted.

In order to placate the pro-slavery leaders, Senator Douglas had taken the position that the question of admitting slavery into new territories should be decided by a vote of the inhabitants of the territory. This was regarded by his large following as a wise way of settling the question. Out of this agitation came the great debates between Lincoln and Douglas. One of these discussions was held in Washington Square, and was attended by thousands of people. Mr. Lincoln advocated that there should be no extension of slavery into new territories, and Mr. Douglas held that "he did not care whether slavery was voted up or down." He said, "I hold that a negro is not and never ought to be a citizen of the U.S. I hold that this government was made on the white basis by white men for the benefit of white men." This probably expressed the opinion of a large majority of Democrats of Quincy and Adams County.

As indicative of the spirit of a large and influential portion of the people of Quincy, the Quincy Herald on April 10, 1861 said, "The slave states have gone out of the Union, or those that have not already done so will most likely do so soon. When that takes place, the republic will not be able to rally the thousands of deluded men that have followed them with the cry of 'no

more slave territories or no more slave states, or down with slavery.'" In its next issue, it assumed the success of secession, and consequently that custom houses would be established on the boundary lines of the confederacy, and "congratulated the farmers of Adams County, that all agricultural products and productions usually shipped from Quincy would be duty free."

It was not without good reason that southern leaders expected a "solid south" and a "divided north." After the "great debates, though Mr. Lincoln received a majority of popular vote, Mr. Douglas was elected by the legislature to the senate. A majority of the voters of Adams County were Douglas Democrats. A majority of the voters of Adams County were Douglas Democrats. After the election of Mr. Lincoln to the presidency in 1860, the pro-slavery leaders decided to lead their states to secede from the Union. In this crisis, Senator Douglas stood firmly for the Union. To him, probably, more than to any man, belongs the honor of inspiring his party with a patriotic purpose to support the president in his effort to maintain the Union by military force. Inspired by his leadership, the democratic and republican leaders of Quincy and Adams County forgot partisanship and partisan differences and responded with enthusiasm to the call for troops to maintain the Union. Before the war ended, out of a population of 41,000, Adams County volunteered 2,300 men in the army of the Union.

Quincy next to Cairo was the most important military point in the State. Measured by longitudinal lines, it is 75 miles farther west than St. Louis. Situated thus on the extreme western edge of Illinois, projecting into the

State of Missouri, it was of great strategic importance.

After Cairo was occupied, the next movement was to secure control of Missouri. Quincy became a center of great military activity. Companies gathered here from various parts of the State to be organized into regiments. The recruiting drum was heard day and night. Orators made patriotic speeches, pastors preached patriotic sermons. Regiments with bands paraded the streets. Women organized to make provisions for the sick and wounded in hospitals. The effect of the shot fired at the flag is indescribable. That shot united the North. The question of slavery was forgotten. The only thought was that the insult to the flag should be avenged and the Union maintained.

Immediately after the proclamation issued by Governor Yates, there were two companies in Quincy formed and commanded by Captain J. D. Morgan of the "Guards," and Captain Schoer of the "Rifles." A meeting of the city of Quincy and vicinity was called at the court house. All were invited "who without distinction of party were determined to stand by the flag and their country and support the government." The court house was packed to its utmost capacity. No epithets were bandied by Democrats against the Republicans or Republicans against Democrats, for the first time in Quincy. Parties forgot their partisanship in their patriotism. Recruiting was begun by the "guards" and within twenty-four hours, more than one hundred men were enrolled. The Savings Bank tendered a loan of \$20,000 to the State. On Sunday of April 21st, 1861, two companies left for Springfield on their way to Cairo. Captain B. M. Prentiss was in command. A movement was made to organize a company in each ward of the city.

On July 2, 1862, the President's call for more troops was not answered so promptly. Patriotic mass meetings were held and this awakened all patriotic people to renewed effort to induce men to enlist. Quincy again became a center for the collection of recruits and the organization of new regiments.

In the autumn of 1862, the flush of patriotism which pervaded all parties had, with many, been chilled by the burdens and horror of war. Some were discouraged by the uncertain issue of the struggle. Others felt that it was assuming anti-slavery features. It was sometimes stigmatized as an "abolitionist's war." Soldiers of the Union armies were sometimes branded as "nigger thieves." The partisan press pronounced the war to be a "failure" and the volunteer soldier was called a Lincoln "hireling." Senator Douglas' eloquent voice was no longer heard. They began to question the right of the administration to coerce a rebellious state. The result of the November election was to send representatives to the next General Assembly who were bitterly opposed to the vigorous prosecution of the war. The representatives from Adams County voted for the so called "Copper-heads Resolution," which denounced war and called for an armistice. This assembly was prorogued by the governor. The representatives from Adams County were elected by a majority of 1796 votes.

The political conditions of affairs at home, however, did not severely impair the efforts of the patriotic soldiers in the field. However, in spite of these differences, Quincy continued to contribute toward the final victory.⁹⁰

90 Past and Present of the City of Quincy and Adams County, Illinois. The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill., 1905, 410-423.

The people of Peoria were heartily and enthusiastically in sympathy with the President in his effort and determination to put down the rebellion in the states and save the integrity of the Union. There were mass meetings, pole raisings, patriotic speeches on rostrum, in the pulpits and on the street corners. Democrats vied with Republicans in expressions of condemnation of the spirit of the southern confederacy and party affiliation were forgotten by the thousands of loyal men who fell over each other in their eagerness to sign their names to the muster rolls. Hon. Wm. Manning, one of Peoria's eminent lawyers of the day, an ardent Douglas Democrat, declared himself for the Union, the constitution and flag. At a great meeting of citizens presided over by Mayor Wm. A. Williard, Wm. B. Whiffen, a Democrat, was made one of the secretaries.

The Democratic Union announced its policy, as being unequivocally for the maintenance of the Federal Union, and Robert G. Ingersoll, then a brilliant Peoria lawyer and up to that time a Democrat, offered to raise a regiment of cavalry a thousand strong. This offer was not available, but shortly after a cavalry regiment was organized and Ingersoll was made Colonel.

The Board of Supervisors appropriated \$10,000 to equip her volunteers and provide for the families of those needing assistance. Many offers from influential and wealthy men were made to provide for families of volunteers and it seemed to be in the nature of a competition among men of affairs to see who could do the most for the Union cause.

The departure of volunteers from Peoria was on the 24th of April, 1861. On this day Captain Dennison's Company of "National Blues," entrained for

Springfield. To the depot the "Blues" were escorted by Captain Norton's company of volunteers, the Peoria Zouaves and the Emmet Guards, each of which was of the state militia and finally it was mustered into the United States service as Company "E", 18th Regiment Illinois Volunteers. Richard J. Oglesby, who was afterwards three times governor of Illinois and U. S. Senator, was commissioned as Colonel of the regiment. Of the thousands of men sent to the front from Illinois, many of whom never returned, Peoria contributed a generous share.

The people of Peoria County were not wholly unprepared for the war. There were then in the city several military companies well officered and equipped. The most popular of these was "The National Blues" a company composed of some of the best men in the city. The other companies were; "The Peoria Rifle Company," had forty men, Paul Distler was Captain, "The Lafayette Rifle Company," the number of its men is not known. These two companies were composed of men of German nationality. None of these companies entered the army as an organized body, but they all became disorganized by their men joining the companies recruited for war.

When the people of Peoria heard the sad news they rushed to the defense of their country. The Transcript editorially thus describes the situation: "The excitement in our city, for the past few days, has exceeded anything ever before known. Yesterday the people paid little attention to business, but thronged the streets awaiting extras containing the news. Nations flags were flung out and patriotic demonstrations broke forth on all hands; party and party feeling were swallowed up in one united determination to stand by

the Union, the constitution and the flag." The Democratic Union came out unequivocally in support of the authorities, quoting President Jackson's motto,—"The Federal Union: by the Eternal, it must and shall be preserved."

Mention was made in the morning papers of the formation of the Washington Rifle Company to be commanded by Dan Miles, who was arranging his business so as to take command. It was also announced that rural districts became equally aroused with the cities, and towns, and, as a conspicuous evidence of patriotic devotion, it was stated that one man had walked in from Knoxville, a distance of forty miles, for the purpose of enlisting in his country's service.

The Transcript in closing a review of the situation said, "A week of such events is worth a life time in ordinary firesides. We have a government." On the following morning April 20th it said, "The War spirit in Peoria rose yesterday to fever heat. The headquarters of the volunteers were crowded throughout the day. In the morning the German Turners, to the number of forty men marched with fife and drum to the "Blues" headquarters and volunteered. Over two hundred had offered by night. The anxiety of the men to get into the companies already accepted exceeds anything we ever saw before."

Several standing offers were made by gentlemen through Mr. Holland that each of them would at his own expense, support the families of any soldier who needed such help during the war.

The city of Peoria and Peoria County contributed 7,303 men to suppress the rebellion and in money contributions and other aids; Peoria County and

city offered in bounties, \$257,806.76; for soldier's families \$66,993.66; and for general expense \$2,314.66 making a total expended of \$327,115.08. This summary does not cover the many thousands of dollars contributed to the Christian and Sanitary Commissions. Peoria County did its whole duty towards the suppression of the great rebellion, and in restoring the supremacy of the constitution and laws of the Union over every foot of the national domain.⁹¹

In Kane County there was almost no need for the call, for the men came flocking from all directions and from all pursuits to the recruiting headquarters, ready to take their places in the rapidly filling ranks. During the week or ten days immediately succeeding the first call the bustle and activities were wonderful. Men volunteered as fast as their names could be recorded and thousands of dollars were raised by private subscriptions for the support of families of volunteers. In Aurora alone, during that time, nearly \$6,000 were thus raised, and four military companies were wholly or partially filled in the same period. Captain Nicholas Greusel, raised a company in Aurora and Captain E. S. Joslyn another in Elgin. These were the first bodies of Kane County troops to depart for the field. By this time the great war was fully inaugurated, and people began to realize that the movement on the part of the southern men was not to be crushed in an easy manner; it had been thoroughly organized and only the strenuous effort could hope to put down the rebellion which now appeared in all its magnitude.

91 Rice, J. M., Peoria City and Peoria County, Illinois. The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912, 216-252.

Pursuant to the call for 300,000 troops in the summer of 1862, the board of supervisors of Kane County held a special meeting and took action upon the following resolution: "Resolved, That we recommend that the board of supervisors of Kane County appropriate and pay to each recruit in Kane County the sum of \$100, until our full quota is made up under the call of the President's for 300,000 volunteers." A committee of the board was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the board in the matter, and they reported their belief that the board should appropriate \$60.00 either in cash or in County orders, bearing interest at 7% to each private and non-commissioned officer, not exceeding 500 men, who shall enlist before the first day of September, 1862, in the present war, under the President's last call for 300,000 men, said \$60.00 to be paid by a committee of the board. The report was adopted, as was also a resolution providing for the payment of the first \$15,000 of the moneys so appropriated. In addition to the bounty offered by the County, there were township and city bounties amounting to \$20 or \$25 for each recruit.

By the report of J. H. Mayborn of Geneva, enrolling officer for Kane County, dated October 8, 1862, it is seen that about one-third of the whole able-bodied male population of the County, between ages of 18 and 45 years was then in actual service.⁹²

The sons of Madison County, cities of Alton and Edwardsville, crowded forward to offer their swords to the national government. There is no page

92 Biographical and Historical Record of Kane County, Illinois, Beers, Leggett and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1888, 308-346.

of her history so brilliant as that which is glorified by the record of her deeds. The total number of men furnished by Madison County during the Civil War was 4,221, being the eighth county in the state in point of numbers. Madison County sent three full companies and Montgomery County one full company to Springfield, in April, 1861.

Three companies mustered into the service of the U.S. for three months and numbered the 9th Regiment Illinois Infantry Volunteers. This regiment by re-organization and re-enlistment remained in the service until the surrender of all the confederate armies. About one-half of the regiment was composed of German-Americans and the other native Americans with a sprinkling of other nationalities.

Alton was a military post during the Civil War from the beginning of the year of 1862 to the close of the war. It was garrisoned at different times by the 77th Ohio, 10th Kansas, and the 164th Illinois and 37th Iowa Infantry.

The demands on some counties as Monroe for example, took every able-bodied man in the county, and then did not have enough to fill the quota. Moreover, Illinois sent 20,844 men for ninety or one hundred days for whom no credit was asked. When Mr. Lincoln's attention was called to the inequalities of the quota compared to the other states, he replied, "The country needs sacrifice. We must put the whip on the free horse." In spite of these disorders Illinois gave the country 73,000 men above all calls. With one-thirteenth of the population of the loyal states, she sent regularly one-tenth of all the soldiers and in the period of the closing calls, when patriots were few and weary, she then sent one-eighth of all that were called for by

her loved and honored son in the White House.

Cairo was always "diabolically Democratic." The town sits upon that point of land in Illinois that is wedged away down between what were the two slave states of Missouri and Kentucky. So cosmopolitan were the Cairo people that they were impatient of the bawlings and crocodile tears of abolitionists and equally idiotic oaths about the divine institution of slavery. Hence they were equally abused by the both sides of the fanatics and fools.

In 1861, Cairo had recovered wholly from the overflow and her population had increased to a little over 2000, the census of 1860 showing a population for Alexander County a little over 4000. In April, 1861, the great Civil War was fully inaugurated. The majority of the people of Cairo, "knew no north, no south, no east or west, but the Union, the whole Union." They had hoped, up to the last hour, that in some way the bloody issue would be spared the country once more. A military company, armed and uniformed, and composed of nearly all the young men of the town, met and drilled at their hall regularly every week. They met one evening, and after their usual exercises engaged in a social meeting and talked over the then absorbing subject of the war. Several of the Cairo braves made "talks" and the meeting finally passed some "armed neutrality" resolution and adjourned.

During all that night the incoming trains were freighted with U. S. soldiers, and when Cairo soldiers got up in the morning, the streets and woods were full of them. And the Cairo company never met again. It is due the Cairo boys to say that about every one of them joined the Union army.

The immediate effect of the occupation of Cairo by the military was to

check improvements and paralyzed the business. This largely resulted from the fact that some of the early commandants were strong Unionists and who proposed to treat every Democrat as a traitor and treated all with a heavy hand.

Cairo was the great gateway between the North and South. It was a military port of vast importance. Thousands of soldiers were stationed here, forts erected, and still other thousands of soldiers were daily passing through here. General Prentiss came here, in charge of the first arrivals of soldiers, and assumed the command of the post. He was superceded by General Grant who was here so long that he almost became a citizen.

Among the first military movements of General Prentiss after he was placed in command of the forces at Cairo, numbering 4800, was to formally demand the arms of the Cairo guards. As the Company had dissolved into the air immediately upon the coming of the Union soldiers, the General, could find no one to respond to his flag of truce demanding unconditional surrender of the ordinances. But he found the keys to the armory, and the deadly weapons of war were taken possession of in the name of the United States and turned over to arm the Union soldiers.

The next and much more important movement was to look out for the steamers C. E. Hillman and John D. Perry, which he had been notified by Governor Yates, had been loaded with arms and ammunition and were on their way south with their cargoes. When the boats reached Cairo they were boarded and brought to the warf. A large number of arms and ammunition were seized and confiscated--a proceeding at that time informal--but it was later approved by

the Secretary of War.

The Union forces wrested the Mississippi River from the rebels, and made this great highway again a free channel of travel and communication. Then, indeed, were the floodgates of prosperity once more opened to Cairo, and the town as the gateway between the Mississippi valley and the South was the busiest place its size on the continent.⁹³

The action of the people of Union County in the Civil War is a demonstration, that the early people here and their descendants had kept brightly burning the fires of patriotism, and were ever ready to respond to that call of their country and take their position, and peril their lives with unequalled heroism in the defense of their country.

The patriotic bravery and war-like spirit is manifested by the simple statement that Union County, under all the heavy calls of the government for men, was one of the few counties in Illinois that was never subjected to the draft in order to fill up their quota, she always having in the field more than her share of men, and this was true after furnishing substitutes for the busy brokers all the way from Massachusetts to Chicago, and nearly every other regiment from Illinois and even some for Missouri and Kentucky. From the Adjutant General's report it is impossible to find any account of those men from the County who went as squads or as individuals and volunteered in companies or regiments.

93 History of Alexander, Union and Pulaski Counties, Illinois, O. L. Baskin and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1883, 402-445.

From the best information the author can gather there is no doubt that Union County from the first and last gave 3,000 men to the Army. These figures are a severe rebuke to the slanders upon southern Illinois from those sections that raked the country for negro substitutes to fill their ranks. The record shows that Union County, in addition to the full 109th Regiment, furnished Captain Mack's company as well as number of men to the 18th Regiment, one company and Captain Reese to the 31st Regiment.

Among the early settlers a large proportion were at first Jeffersonian Democrats and when Jackson took his prominent position in the political history of the country, they were Jacksonian Democrats, and the descendants of these people mostly have been true to the political faith of their fathers. The County was Democratic at all national elections, until the large negro element, which had lodged in Cairo, was permitted to vote. The county has steadily voted the Republican ticket.⁹⁴

While the people of Charleston were holding high revel over the surrender of Fort Sumter, the people of Rockford were preparing to take part in the measures that were sure to be inaugurated to punish their treason. An impromptu meeting was called in Rockford, and a committee appointed to prepare and issue a call for a mass meeting of citizens to consider the exigencies of the occasion and to adopt such measures as the times seemed sure to demand.

Saturday, April 20, 1861, the Rockford Register spoke as follows:

"Our city, in common with all other places throughout the north, has been

94 Ibid., 477.

the scene of almost continuous excitement on the war question during the whole week..... Party lines have for the time been laid aside in devotion to the Union, and with few exceptions our Democratic city, to their honor be it said, joined heartily in sustaining the administration. It is no time now to argue who is right or wrong....., we hope we have no "Cow Boys," in Rockford or Winnebago County....."

The mass meeting called for the 24th of April was an imposing demonstration. Every man present and participating in the meeting had, for once, divested himself of political bias, and was governed alone by patriotic impulses. There was no halting between two opinions--there was but one expression, but one purpose, "the Union must and shall be preserved." Strong resolutions were adopted and men and money pledged till the rebellion was conquered, peace restored and the integrity of the Union vindicated. But even before this meeting had assembled and taken action, enlistments had commenced, the organization of several companies undertaken, and within a week after the news of the surrender of Fort Sumter had been received, the Rockford Zouaves had completed their organization and tendered their service to the government. In a few hours subscriptions totaling \$1,270.49 were received to purchase the uniforms for this company.

During the week ending May 4, five other companies were raised, as follows: Rockford Zouaves, Company "B"; Ellis Rifles; Rockford Rifles; a company of Dragoons, and a company of Irish citizens. This uprising of the patriotism of Winnebago County the first months of war, was in the spring and summer of 1861. While the younger portion of the community were thus

responding to their country's call for help, the older men were no less active in providing ways and means to help their boys in service.

The County authorities within a very few days after the outbreak of war met in special session and appropriated \$10,000 to be expended in the equipment of soldiers and support of families of the volunteers.

Up to October 1, 1863, the quota of the County according to the enrollment returns made to the Assistant Marshal General's Office at Springfield was 2,037 men, the enlistments credited to the County 1,921 leaving the County short 116 men. These were more than made up, however, by men who had enlisted in the regiments raised in other states, and who had not up to this time been allowed to the credit of the County.⁹⁵

The population of Jacksonville, Morgan County reached 5,528 according to the census reports of 1860. The slavery sentiment was strong in Jacksonville. But just like in other major cities and counties of Illinois the people of Jacksonville rallied to the flag and forgetting for the time being that they were Democrats or Republicans. Morgan County was no laggard in the path of duty and her patriotism was equal to any of her sister counties.

Many immigrants came from Germany to St. Clair County and to this day Bellville and St. Clair County are populated largely by thrifty Germans and their descendants. Scarcely had the proclamation of President Lincoln, calling for volunteers been issued, when the noble sons of this County abandoned for the time their various civil pursuits, responded to the call and rallied around the flag. Of the 225,300 soldiers accredited to the State during the

95 The History of Winnebago County, Illinois, H. F. Kett and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1877, 266-292.

Civil War, St. Clair County furnished 4,396 besides large companies had crossed the river and entered Missouri Regiments.

Generally, nearly all of the military companies of Cook County were meeting and drilling, though even they were waiting to see what was going to happen. Finally the attack came and awoke the waiting County and city like an earthquake.

In Chicago, there was even more stir and excitement than had been seen elsewhere. Everybody was engrossed with the war news and the war preparations. The city was full of din and bustle, and the night was hardly more quiet. On the evening of the very day that Sumter was attacked, an immense meeting of Chicago's citizens was held in the great Republican Wigwam, where Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency, and ten thousand men of all religious creeds and party affiliations came together to deliberate on the crisis of the hour. There was no talking for effect. All the speeches were short and to the point. The time for harangue was over, the time for action had come. Before the vast assemblage separated, Judge Manierre, one of the most eminent and popular men of the city, administered to this great body of people, the oath of loyalty to the government.

Public meetings in all parts of the city and county, both of native and foreign born citizens were held preparatory to active work in the field. Friday evening, April 18th, a double mass-meeting of citizens was held in Bryan Hall and Metropolitan Hall at which patriotic speeches were made and resolutions were adopted to sustain the government, suppress the rebellion, and maintain the Union.

A subscription of thirty thousand dollars was immediately made, and a committee appointed to carry out the wishes of the people, as expressed, and to use the money in assisting the government. The old U. S. Zouaves (Colonel Ellsworth's pride) were reorganized under Captain Hayden. The Irish companies were filling up. The German Turners were nearly ready. The Union Cadets were almost the first to be prepared for their arms. The Highland Guards were almost nightly drilling under Captain McArthur. The students of Bryant and Stratton College began forming a company. All of the old companies were calling for recruits.

The Tribune of April 20th had this to say of the immense double meeting held here: "It would be impossible to describe the wild enthusiasm of the double meeting at Bryan and Metropolitan Halls last night, called to procure subscriptions for our volunteers. The money came down like rain, and the people rushed forward in unprecedented numbers at the various military headquarters, to enroll themselves among the defenders of the flag." The Chicago Bankers had subscribed over \$500,000 to the state war fund to be used in carrying on expenses prior to the assembly of the legislature.

A week after the opening of hostilities, the streets of Chicago were alive with the movement of volunteers. Everything gave way to the war and to its demands. Workmen from their shops, printers from their cases, lawyers from their offices, clerks and bookkeepers from counter and counting-room, were busily drilling, and the enlistments were marvelously rapid. By April 23 there was strong talk of the necessity of a vigilance committee to hold in check southern sympathizers. A committee was thus formed and was in

daily session from early morning until late at night.

Reports were constantly made to the committee of traitors and treason, of threats to burn elevators, to blow up the powder magazines, and to do other mischief, and thus aid the so-called confederacy. The committee had guards placed to watch all important and threatened buildings. Not a keg of powder was permitted to be taken from any of the magazines, without the consent of the committee, who, before issuing a permit, had to be satisfied that it went into loyal hands for a legitimate purpose.

The courts all adjourned on account of war times and incident excitement. The loyalty and munificence of Solomon Sturges, is abundantly shown by the circumstance that he had offered to arm and equip at his own expense a company of eighty sharpshooters. These were to be made up of some of the best shots in the city, many of them were members of the Audubon Club, and were to be armed with the Maynard rifle, sword, bayonet, and a pair of eight-inch revolvers. Mr. Sturges offered to bear the entire expense of their outfit and drill.

A. D. Titsworth and Company, clothiers of the city, got up 1400 uniforms for the Chicago troops. They were to be the army fatigue dress in "cadet gray" cloth, a full suit, with long surtout and heavy cape. Each soldier was to be supplied with two flannel shirts. This house arranged to make up 1000 suits per week. In a short time the Illinois troops were well uniformed. Large personal donations of money were made by George Smith, Henry Farnam, J. Y. Scammon and the Chicago Gas and Light Company each donating one thousand dollars.

The German residents, married men, of the ages of 25 and 45 years, organized a reserve corps on April 22, 1861, a battalion of four companies, electing officers who had served in European armies. The Irish citizens vied with all others in pressing forward into the ranks. At the North Market Hall meeting, in an hour and half after the roll list was opened, it received the large number of three hundred and twenty-five names.

April 19th the following dispatch was sent by Governor Richard Yates to General Richard Kellog Swift, then commander of the militia of this military district:

AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE, HAVE AS STRONG A FORCE AS YOU CAN RAISE, ARMED AND EQUIPPED WITH AMMUNITION AND ACCOUTREMENTS, AND A COMPANY OF ARTILLERY, READY TO MARCH AT A MOMENT'S WARNING. A MESSENGER WILL START TO CHICAGO TO-NIGHT.

RICHARD YATES, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The morning of April 20th, Mr. John W. Bunn appeared, as the governor's messenger, and announced to General Swift and the committee of war, that all diligence should be used in raising and equipping the force, and that its destination must be kept a profound secret.

General Swift issued his orders for the militia to muster, but with the exception of a few independent companies, small in numbers, his force was composed of volunteers, all told to the number of 400, as per General Swift's telegram to Governor Yates, dated April 21st. The Adjutant General's report says 595, but he included some companies that did not arrive in time. The force included four cannon and forty-four horses.

The war-committee borrowed from a Milwaukee company fifty muskets, but

the force was largely armed with squirrel-rifles, shot-guns, single-barreled pistols, antique revolvers, and anything that looked as if it would shoot, that could be obtained from the gunstores, second-hand stores and pawnshops.⁹⁶

The state having neither money nor arms, the war-committee borrowed or bought the arms and commissary stores, and advanced from its funds the money necessary for the purchase of everything required that could be obtained on such short notice. At eleven o'clock at night, April 21, 1861, a long train of twenty-six cars, with two powerful engines attached, waited at the Illinois' Central Station for the expedition to start.

The Cairo expedition was hastily prepared and, as before stated, furnished with such arms as could be obtained. The men, mostly in their everyday clothes, some with overcoats, but more without, a few blankets, fewer tents, and comparatively without camp-equipage of any kind. An expedition starting, as this did, for an unknown destination, one may conceive was a source of anxiety to all. General Swift was without military training or knowledge, but he had with him General Joseph Dana Webster, then Captain, as aide, and to whom the governor gave the authority to supercede General Swift at any time should it become necessary.

It seems strange that such secrecy should have been necessary in any northern state, but we were surrounded by traitors in Chicago, and a large proportion of the people of southern Illinois sympathized with the South.

The occupation of Cairo was none too soon, for many of the inhabitants

⁹⁶ The Chicago Tribune, April 23, 1861.

were credited with a heavy leaning toward secession, and would have been glad to welcome southern instead of northern troops. The South was in earnest, and the North now began to believe it. Preparing the expedition to Cairo brought us face to face with the fact that the State of Illinois had not, within its control, guns enough for one regiment.⁹⁷

97 Ibid., April 23, 1861.

CHAPTER IV

THE UNITING INFLUENCE OF CHICAGO, THE PATRIOTIC WORK OF THE WOMEN. THE WORK OF RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS AROUSED THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORT AND PATRIOTIC SERVICE.

1. Chicago and her influence on the Civil War.:- What will Chicago do if the war comes was a question asked from one section of the country to the other. This city, and all pertaining to it, has been exceptional. The city grew. The railway era was to transform everything. As a trading post it became second only to New York as a center of business. Chicago continued to grow as onward it strode, pushing out docks and piers, erecting depots and elevators, constructing blocks of business houses, and pushing eastward, westward, northward, and southward her lines of railway communications, until, from the obscure trading post, it became the first primary grain, pork and lumber depot in the world.

Statistics of mortality showed that no city was more healthy. The open plain and lake forbade the possibility of malaria. The climate, with the exception of the variable spring; is desirable; winter is stern and bracing, and summer is delightful. The grand old lake perpetually modifies the burning heat, and sends up toward nightfall over the glowing city a gentle breeze, filling all homes with comfort.

Young as the city was when the war came, music, sculpture, and painting had their worthy beginnings. The Press of the city, secular and religious, daily and weekly, had taken ranks as only next to those of the national

metropolis. In 1838, the first shipment of wheat was made by Walker and Company, and amounted to seventy-eight bushels.

In 1848, the shipments, by lake were 2,160,800. In 1858, the receipts were 9,639,644; in 1867, 13,483,641 bushels. In 1858, the receipts of corn were 8,252,641 bushels. From 250 cattle packed in 1863, the number advanced to the total received of 813,797. The lumber trade of 1847 reported, as receipts, lumber 32,118,225. In 1849, the first bar of strap-iron was slid on the Galena and Chicago Union railway; now, the Chicago and North-western owns and operates 1800 miles of track. The colossal Illinois and Central, starting from Cairo, reaches the Mississippi at Dunleith, and lake Michigan at Chicago.

The political convictions of such a people were earnest and even fiery. Douglas resided in Chicago; Lincoln was nominated in its Wigwam, and two such men never could have headed parties of dreamers. They meant business, and they did business. Their contests, and those of their followers, were of concrete ideas. It was of such a city, the question beginning this part of Chicago's story, was asked. Had its trade smothered its patriotism? Would this intensely practical city go to war for an idea? Well, it did; and from the beginning the businessmen foresaw that measures for which the country was not then ready, must be adopted before the war could end with a preserved and united country.

With the fall of Sumter, all doubts as to what Chicago would do vanished. That eventful morning when the news reached the city, described in a previous section, told that Chicago was to take a stand astonishing as it was gratifying

The pulpits of that time, were remarkable for their strength. Chicago clergymen were called in many directions to repeat, in vast assemblies, their burning words. The daily press of the city was of such a nature that it is almost impossible to over-rate its influence at the time. Of high order, and great ability, if it had gone wrong, it might have ruined the city and stayed the rising tide which was to sweep rebellion from the land. No pains nor expense was spared to put the country in possession of all important facts. Correspondents were not only with every army, but with each corps, division, and brigade. Abuses were promptly denounced; extravagance rebuked.

The Chicago Daily Tribune had become a great power. It had a large circulation, and was ably conducted. After the consolidation of the Press and Tribune, it had a brilliant staff, among whom was John L. Scripps, Wm. Bross, Dr. Ray, Joseph Medill, Horace White. Mr. Medill wielded a trenchant pen; woe to him who provoked its merciless satire; at home or in Washington he was busy, and his paragraphs burned like fire into popular conviction. The war contributions of this paper amounted to \$12,573.

The Chicago Times, organ of the Democratic party, under the very able management of Messrs. Story and Worden, had been a most powerful journal. It took its position, boldly avowed its principles, and sternly maintained them. The Times, by its vigor and energy, took the leading position in the party which it acted, and sustained it to the last.

The Evening Journal as an afternoon daily, wielded great influence. It was ably conducted, and gave its steady and unflinching allegiance to

the government and its constant support to the national authorities, denouncing unsparingly those who were in opposition to crushing out the rebellion. Its managers gave largely of money and influence to sustain the war. It had commanded a wide circulation and lead in the great Western plains beyond the Mississippi River.

Among the Germans the Staats Zeitung was a prominent organ for the government. Boldly radical, and conducted by the gentlemen of culture, it stood with teutonic tenacity to the country that sustained it. It stirred the hardy, liberty-loving Germans, and they flocked to the standard of their adopted country as their fathers had to that of fatherland.

The Weekly Press of Chicago, especially the religious press, wielded a power hard to measure. It sent its papers into homes where men read them at leisure, and took their teachings into the sacred confidence of their religious convictions.

The New Covenant, under the able management of Rev. D. P. Livermore and his talented lady, exerted an influence in many ways second to none in the city. Mr. Livermore wielded a weighty truthful pen, and spoke with force and eloquence from the pulpit, advocating the measures of the day in behalf of freedom.

From the press to trade and business. An attempt will be made to see what part trade and business played in helping to win the war. Patriotic resolutions soon declared the sentiments of the Board of Trade, and prompt action seconded the resolutions. It raised a battery which won distinction in the sternest conflicts. It promised that all the bodies of its members

killed or dying in the service should be brought home for burial, and that promise was sacredly kept.

Large orders for grain were received from New Orleans and elsewhere in the South, asking speedy shipment, tendering gold in payment. Perhaps one of the earliest evidences given the South of the stern, unconquerable spirit of the North, came in the telegraphic answer-- "No traitor can purchase corn or provisions here."

On the 15th of April, 1861, the Board of Trade promptly subscribed \$5,000, partly in private and partly in corporate subscriptions. It at once telegraphed to Washington an indorsement of the issue of treasury notes, and urged that they be made legal tenders. It declared loyalty to the national Government an indispensable prerequisite to admission to membership. The Board recruited and placed in the field the Seventy-Second, Eighty-eighth, and One Hundred and Thirteenth, three years regiments, known as the First, Second, and Third Board of Trade regiments. Its subscribers paid over one hundred thousand dollars in paying bounties, in the relief of two hundred soldier's families, and the general care of its regiments.

The news of Grant's glorious victory at Fort Donelson was received on Board of Trade between ten and eleven, A.M. There was a grand outburst of enthusiasm, and in a few moments the sum of five thousand dollars was contributed by them for the relief of the sick and wounded. That same day a train was rolled out of the Illinois Central depot, richly freighted with supplies from the Board of Trade to the battle-field. Such prompt, patriotic response cheered the armies and the heads of Government, and struck

the key-note of patriotic unselfishness on the great triangle of trade, commerce, and finance.

The stroke was answered by the hearty chorus of store and storehouse; of mills, manufacturers, banks, railway depots, and other places. It is beyond doubt that the action, words and deeds of the Chicago Board of Trade were worth to the country during the war, armies of men and millions of dollars.

The express companies were not behind in patriotic spirit or deeds. Mr. James C. Fargo, general superintendent of the American Express Company, knew no half-way measures or stinted policy. That company paid the salaries of all its enlisted employees, while they remained in the army, sometimes amounting to fifty or sixty dollars; and it is estimated that not less than sixty thousand dollars were expended for the war by this company. It transported all sanitary supplies free.

The Chicago railways displayed unmeasured liberality in the transportation of nurses and sanitary agents, Christian Commission laborers, etc. Their contributions must have swollen to immense totals. A partial statement secured from one of the companies--the CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN--is an example of what was done by the railway companies:

"In the beginning of the war, large numbers of men enlisted for the three months' service, and, served with distinction in the Army of the Potomac. In August, 1862, one hundred and fifty men enlisted, for three years, in the Eighty-ninth Illinois Vol. Infantry regiment. As showing the generosity of the officers and employees of the Chicago and Northwestern Rail Road, it may be stated that a large sum of money was contributed by them, and judiciously distributed,

each month, in sums ranging from \$10 upwards, to each of the families of these volunteers..... During the great Sanitary Fair, held in Chicago, a large portion of the goods which went from all parts of the country to fill the halls, was contributed along the different lines of this company and its connections, and, every thing for that noble cause, and in fact everything consigned to the Sanitary Commission, during the four years of strife, was transported with the greatest care, free of cost.

During the whole war, troops were constantly being transported over its lines from the States of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, employing all their facilities for the comfort of the men, and hurrying them forward to the seat of war with the utmost speed and safety. At one time, in the latter part of the war, it became necessary for the Government to use a large number of locomotives, to transport troops and provisions to points where there was an absolute and immediate necessity for the same, and demands were made upon the leading railroads throughout the North for engines to supply the wants of the soldiers. This company had at that time some thirty new locomotives just constructed at the East, which they designed placing on one of the new divisions of the road, which, on the arrival of these locomotives, would be opened for business. The Government requested the loan of these, to which the company assented, but to the great detriment of the company's interests, as, for several months they were unable to meet the demands of that division, for want of the proper amount of rolling stock. The number of men transported during the late war amounted to about 109,500, for which the company received but a very small portion of the revenue which would have accrued had the men been general passengers and not in the service of the United States."⁹⁸

98 Coatsworth, S. S., The Loyal People of the Northwest, Church, Goodman, & Donnelly Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1869, 301-302.

It is assumed that the military expenses of Chicago and Cook County, for the suppression of the rebellion, was sixty-two millions of dollars. Other sections of this chapter will show the work of its patriotic citizens especially the women in their fairs, soldier aid societies, rest homes, etc. The example of Chicago, in these respects told upon the country. It is not claimed that other cities did not perform their work bravely and laudably, but that Chicago is exceptional, had its patriotism been of the feeble sort, the national struggle would have been prolonged.

It should be remembered and made a matter of history that the first money raised in Illinois for the war was subscribed by citizens of Chicago. The first armed force sent out in the West was that sent to Cairo, and it was sent from Chicago. The first general in command in the State of Illinois was Richard K. Swift, a citizen of Chicago. The first shot fired in the West for the Union was a Chicago shot, from a Chicago cannon, trained by a Chicago boy, of the Chicago Light Artillery. Let us hope that the horrors of war may never be brought upon our country, and that peace and harmony may henceforth be the results of the treasure expended and the sacrifices in the name of Liberty and Union.⁹⁹

2. Patriotic efforts of the women:- Perhaps the brightest page in the history of the State is that which records the efforts of the women in behalf of the soldiers. The women of Illinois, in common with others all over the land, were the first to pity the suffering of the soldiers and the first to make efforts to afford relief. Though they were unable to share with them

99 Ibid., 286, 302.

the toil and perils of battle, yet they bound up the wounds and by their self denial inspired them with a holier ardor for the cause they were defending.

At home they organized societies to knit stockings, pick lint for the wounded, and prepare delicacies and reading matter for their sons and brothers at the front. The war brought work, as well, as anxiety, to the women. Nobly they took up their task for the cause of the Union.

Their first work was in aiding the sick soldiers in battle. The women of Decatur organized in November of 1861, "The Sick and Wounded Soldier's Aid Society", the name later changed to "The Hospital Aid Society," to work in cooperation with the National Sanitary Commission. The money needed to carry on the work of the Hospital Aid Society was raised in various ways by the women. Entertainment of all kinds, and suppers, balls, and anything to make money were tried.

Mrs. H. C. Johns was the first president of the Hospital Aid Society. Other officers that year of 1861-62 were Mrs. Lockwood, vice-president and Mrs. Close, treasurer.

The Decatur Hospital Aid Society was the organization which conceived the idea of the state sanitary fair which was held at the fair grounds in December 12, 13 of 1864 and which netted \$29,736.92 for the Sanitary Commission's work. Two other fairs were held for the benefit of the State Sanitary Commission. The Northwestern Fair held in Chicago in October, 1863, netted \$60,000. Another Fair was held in Chicago in 1865 and about \$30,000 was realized.

The patriotic women of Galena, unable to enlist, determined to make uniforms for the first company that their town sent into the field. Accordingly they purchased the necessary cloth, employed tailors to cut the garments, and made them up themselves.

The "Ladies League of Springfield" was organized May 13, 1863. Two hundred names were enrolled at the first meeting. At the expiration of the year it numbered five hundred twenty-nine. From the annual report of the secretary, Mrs. Paul Selby, in 1864, the following extract is taken. "At its first organization the League was simply designed as an associated expression of loyal sentiment, in which members pledged themselves to an 'unconditional support to the National Government in its present struggle against rebellion.' Beyond this it had no distinctive objective. But faith without words is dead.....In looking around for a field of operation one opened to us at the very outset. In our midst were many families of those who having patriotically offered themselves had been compelled to leave those dependents upon them idly provided....."

The County Board of Sangamon County had already done much to prevent distress which must otherwise have resulted, among this class of persons, by liberal appropriations of money; but it was practically impossible that this system should reach some of the most deserving ones. Committees were therefore appointed in the various wards of the city to seek out and investigate cases requiring attention. So the Ladies Aid Society of Springfield took a hand in this work and offered great assistance to the County Board in this work. The Ladies Loyal League of Springfield was purely a local

organization,¹⁰⁰ and its revenue was derived solely from the city, church, etc. of Springfield, Illinois.

The women of Quincy, Illinois showed zealous patriotism and on the 24th of April, 1861 a call was issued for a meeting "to organize to help the men in the field." Two societies were formed, one was the "Needle Pickets," the other "The Good Samaritans." They prepared lint, bandage, articles of comfort and convenience and in every way added their mite to aid and comfort the brave men of our land. Chief work performed by the "Needle Pickets" consisted in relieving the destitute families of soldiers at home, and doing everything possible for the inmates of hospitals.

At first the labors of the Society were confined to soldiers in the field and their families at home, but, on account of the profound disturbance to business and consequent widespread suffering, it soon became manifest that the poor of the city must be relieved irrespective of their direct connection with throes of the war. Food and wearing apparel were therefore distributed to worthy applicants. As the war progressed the Society also sent a number of nurses to Pittsburgh Landing, Vicksburg and other battlefields.

One of the features of their work which was deeply appreciated by the soldiers was the furnishing of reading matter to those in the hospital. The cash receipts of the Needle Pickets from March, 1861 to May, 1865 amounted to \$28,714.85; expenditures, \$22,805.19. The Sisters of the Good Samaritan, the object and work of which were along the lines with those of

the Needle Pickets, organized on July 12, 1861. At the conclusion of their labors the Society had a balance in the treasury of several thousand dollars.¹⁰¹

On the 26th of April, 1861, just two weeks after the beginning of war, there appeared in the public press of Peoria a call for a meeting of women to be held there on the 30th of April to form themselves into a company of nurses and to attend upon the sick and wounded soldiers. The next day after the publicity of this call a meeting of other ladies was held at Rouse's Hall to make arrangements for preparing bandages, lint and shirts for the use of the soldiers. Mrs. Julia P. Bourland and Mrs. Rastus D. Hardin were made president and secretary. There was no rivalry between these two organizations, the one being intended to supply a corps of nurses, the other for the furnishing of supplies for the hospital service.

In addition to the effort put forth in Peoria, we find ladies of Elmwood engaged in the summer time in the laudable work of making havelocks to shield the men from the intense rays of the sun, and in winter time the ladies of Peoria, in response to a call of the Ladies Aid Society of Palmyra, Missouri, engaged in the equally laudable work of making mittens to protect the hands of the soldiers from the cold.¹⁰²

So the work went on during the early stages of the war, the women lending a helping hand wherever, they could find a place to do so. Their labor soon assumed an organized form. Hundreds of relief societies sprang up all

101 History of Adams County, 232.

102 History of Peoria County, 178.

over the State. These consisted of food, clothing, medical supplies, reading matter and other articles. The Counties of Illinois next became enlisted in the work of Benevolence. In the 69 counties where records were made and reported, the sums donated as bounties to volunteers for the support of soldier's families and other objects amounted to more than \$1,500,000. Another form which the work assumed was the establishment of soldier's homes in the principal cities of Illinois.

As soon as news had been received of the engagement at Fort Donelson, the governor and state officers visited the battlefield, not only for the purpose of rejoicing with the brave volunteers over the first great victory of the Union arms, but also, and chiefly, to look after and care for the sick and wounded.

It had been seen long before this that the facilities of the war department were inadequate to the proper care of the sick and disabled soldiers of so vast and hastily-equipped an army. To alleviate the suffering and reduce the mortality consequent upon the imperfect methods of the government, supplementary organizations, sanitary commissions, both national and state, were formed. Through the unwearying zeal of these efforts, large quantities of medical and surgical as well as other supplies were collected and distributed among the wounded and suffering, both in hospitals and camps.

Devoted, self-sacrificing, courageous women volunteered their services as nurses, and nobly performed their part.

Following close upon the victory at Fort Donelson, came the bloody battle of Shiloh, with its appalling list of 7882 wounded Union soldiers, besides the multitude of confederates left helpless upon the field. The

army hospitals were over-crowded, and in pursuance of the recommendation of Governor Yates, hospitals were established at Springfield, Peoria, and Quincy.

Governor Yates, arriving just a week after the battle, on the battle-field saw the dreadful evidences of the havoc of war on every side. Dead bodies were lying on the ground awaiting burial, while others had been hurriedly thrown into shallow graves and were but partially covered with the cold earth. The condition of the wounded was most deplorable. Hundreds of brave men were lying where they had fallen, their wounds as yet undressed, while other hundreds were dying from disease induced by nervous prostration and exposure. They had neither supplies nor medical attention.

Governor Yates had said, "We must not let our brave boys think that they are forgotten, but follow them in their many marches, with such things as they need for their comfort, which the government cannot supply, and with messages of love and encouragement from home, wherever they go and at whatever cost."

To carry out this purpose involved the outlay of immense sums and the labor of many patriotic hands. In order that the work might be properly systematized and intelligently directed, the governor determined to establish a State Sanitary Bureau and appointed Colonel John Williams, state commissary-general, its chief. Auxiliary sanitary associations and soldiers aid-societies were formed, and fairs held in aid of the work in nearly every county in the state, the citizens responding with great liberality to all of the many calls made upon them.

In this great work the women of the state were not found wanting, and its success was in no small degree due to their unwearied devotion and noble self-sacrifice. Among those prominently identified with the movement in Chicago and who lent it invaluable aid were Mrs. Daniel P. Livermore, Mrs. Abram, H. Hoge, Mrs. Henry Sayrs, Mrs. Jeremiah Porter, Mrs. Oliver E. Hosmer, Mrs. C. C. Webster, Mrs. J. E. McLaren. Through their efforts, in addition to other work for the commission, a female-nurse association was formed, the object of which was to furnish to military hospitals trained nurses, At the head of this department were Mrs. Mary Bickerdyke, Mrs. Edgerton, Miss J. A. Babcock, Miss Mary E. Foster and Mrs. D. M. Brundage. In 1863, the ladies in Chicago formed the "Ladies Relief Society" to care for the families of soldiers.

3. The Sanitary Commission, its organization and work:- It is now an admitted fact that all the great organizations of the sanitary movements of the war had their origin with the women of New York City. While it is true that at early dates, local organizations had been formed in other cities, yet it was at a great meeting, held at Cooper Institute on the 6th day of May, 1861, that the "Women's Central Association for Relief," was organized for the purpose of concentrating the scattered efforts of the women of the country, upon the one common subject of furnishing comforts, stores and nurses, in aid of the medical staff. These humane efforts were met not only with cold indifference, but with positive opposition by the military authorities, and there seemed to be an impassible barrier interposed between their friends at home and these brave defenders of their country, whose health or

very lives might depend upon the kind help of loved ones, who were not only willing but anxious to contribute to their well being.

But the women were not the only ones to see the necessity of better sanitary measures in the army, than those at its command. The physicians and surgeons of the Hospitals of New York and the "New York Medical Association for furnishing Hospital Supplies" had held several meetings, and were equally anxious to contribute what they could to the accomplishments of similar purposes, but the doors seemed barred to them also.

A delegation representing these three powerful associations was dispatched to Washington, and, after a hot contest of nearly a month's duration, they so impressed upon the authorities not only their sincerity of purpose, but the feasibility of their plans of operations that on the 9th day of June, 1861, the Secretary of War issued an order appointing a commission consisting of distinguished ministers of the gospel, physicians, army officers and laymen, to be styled, "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in Respect to the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces." This was the origin of the great "U.S. Sanitary Commission."

Through its instrumentality those who contributed of their free will to the alleviation of the sufferings of the sick and wounded and to their restoration to health, were made sure their gifts would reach the desired end, and so the whole people were encouraged to increase their benefactions.

In the course of a few months this great commission had extended operations throughout the entire country east of the Mississippi River. In consequence of active military operations in Missouri, the "Western Sanitary

Commission," which had been appointed, September 10, 1861, by General Halleck, had so far completed its arrangements to supply the needs in that vicinity, that it chose to retain its form of organization and continue to act as an independent body throughout the war.

The "Sanitary Commission" greatly assisted in arousing and giving directions to the benevolent enterprise in the State of Illinois. Since the establishment of the Sanitary Commission on September 10, 1861 to June 1, 1863 there had been distributed through its instrumentality 754,938 articles of various kinds, for the comfort and health of the soldier and the relief of the suffering in the army and in Military Hospitals, consisting of blankets, pillows, sheets, comforts, bed socks, shirts and drawers, socks, slippers, towels, handkerchiefs, dried and canned fruits, jellied fruits, pound of butter, crackers, packages of Farina, bushels of vegetables, bottles of wine, brandy and whiskey and many other things.¹⁰³

The value of these articles is estimated at \$395,335.96. These articles have come mainly as the free gifts of the noble women of the loyal states to their brothers in arms, and does not include the distribution of several thousand of articles previous to the November 1, 1861, of which no record was kept. The Sanitary Commission at Chicago credits the city of Chicago with contributing \$40,331.13 and 9,538 packages of various kinds. The cities outside of Chicago contributed \$55,541.68. Dr. Newberry, one of the most efficient members, organized the Northwestern branch at Chicago.

103 Report of the Western Sanitary Commission for the year ending June 1, 1863, St. Louis, Mo., 1863.

This was one of the most efficient of all its auxiliaries in collecting supplies, and its various tributaries scattered throughout the States of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, did more for the relief of the soldier probably in proportion to their means, than those of any other section of the country.

Nowhere had the commission warmer or more enthusiastic friends than at Chicago. It was most fortunate in enlisting at an early period the active sympathy of some of the most influential and trusted men of that important place. The names of the gentlemen who conducted its operations, Judge Skinner, E. B. McCagg and E. W. Blatchford were alone a tower of strength to its cause throughout this Northwest and the commission reaped the benefit in the vast contributions of that region of their wide spread reputation and active exertions.

Soldier's homes and relief associations and hospitals were established in the principal cities. In these places of refuge the traveling soldier, when he had no one else to care for him, was provided with board and lodging free of cost. During the war the several homes in Illinois and other parts of the West furnished lodging for 600,000 men and meals valued at \$2,500,000. The relief thus afforded was not intended as a substitute but as supplemental to that of the government. The troops of Illinois participated in some of the most gigantic struggles of the war, in which no government system, however provident or elastic, can do more than mitigate the suffering. In these bloody conflicts the private benevolence of the people nobly seconded the efforts of the government, and could the relief afforded

by both have been tenfold more effective, the wounded would still have suffered unspeakable privations and agony.

4. The work and contributions of the Christian Commission:- The work of the Sanitary Commission, however, grand, as it was, had reference only to the physical well-being of the soldier, while their religious interests were left to other hands. The Y.M.C.A's of the country, early in the war, perceiving that the usual performance of one chaplain to a regiment was wholly inadequate to supply the religious needs of the soldiers, held a convention of chosen delegates of N.Y.C. on November 16, 1861, and organized the "United States Christian Commission," having in view the promoting of the spiritual and temporal welfare of the officers and the men in the army and navy, in cooperation with chaplains and others.

Immediately after its appointment the Commission met in Washington and organized by choosing George H. Stuart, a wealthy philanthropist of Philadelphia, as chairman, and Hon. B. F. Maniere, of N.Y., secretary and treasurer, who together with the Rt. Rev. E. S. Jones, D. D. of N.Y., Rev. B. C. Cutler, D. D. of Brooklyn and Charles Demond of Boston constituted the Executive Committee.

The "Christian Commission" made herculean efforts to supply spiritual needs of the soldiers. Books, magazines, newspapers, and periodicals, and personal visits were made to their homes and reported to soldiers. Pastors, lay preachers, and lay men sent into the army camps as unpaid servants who organized religious instructions and rendered service in hospitals. ¹⁰⁴

104 Eddy, T. M., The Patriotism of Illinois, I, II, Clarke & Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1865, 152.

John V. Farwell, Tuthill King, B. F. Jacobs, Dwight L. Moody were at the head of the Christian Commission in Chicago. Through this branch, \$139,019 in cash, stores, and publications were distributed. The branch at Peoria distributed \$54,863, and that at Springfield, \$33,756. But the efforts of patriotic citizens to mitigate the horrors of war and alleviate distressed soldiers were not confined to any one city or town. In every county either branch associations existed or fairs were held, and loyal men and women gave from their own home store-house the best they had, and all that could be spared to minister to the wants of their soldiers in the field.

5. Various groups undertook to organize brigades:- In response to the Governor's call for troops many various groups and organizations undertook to organize brigades. Certain regiments consisted entirely of countrymen and farmers. The State Agricultural Society undertook in 1862 the organization of an extra brigade.¹⁰⁵

The Chicago Railroad battalion was a part of the response in 1862 to the president's call for 300,000 men. The Chicago Board of Trade recruited and placed in the field the Seventy-Second, Eighty-eighth, and One Hundred and Thirteenth, three year regiments known as the First, Second, and third Board of Trade regiments; also, the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth and One Hundred and Sixty-ninth; one hundred day regiments, the Fourth and Fifth Board of Trade regiments.¹⁰⁶ Early in the war Colonel C. E. Hovey, president of Illinois State Normal University, raised the "Normal Regiment," to a very large degree composed of school teachers and advanced students.¹⁰⁷

105 Illinois State Journal, August 16, 1862.

106 Coatsworth, 299.

107 Illinois State Journal, August 22, 1862.

6. Foreign Groups made important contributions:- The adopted citizens of Illinois made important contributions toward winning the battles of the Civil War. The Germans around Belleville responded enthusiastically from the start and enrolled in great numbers. A company was organized by Augustus Mersy, a veteran officer of the Baden Army of the German Revolution of 1848. The 13th Cavalry regiment was the "German Guides" organized at Chicago in December, 1861. Within a six month period, it was estimated that 6,000 Germans from Illinois were in the Federal Army.¹⁰⁸

About two hundred Poles from Illinois, many of them from Chicago, served in the ranks of the Union Army. The 24th Ill. Volunteer Inf. group and the 16th Cavalry Regiment, especially, contained large numbers of Poles. Captain Bernard F. Stampoffski, veteran of the Mexican War and an old and widely known citizen of Chicago, organized Co. "F" of the 9th Illinois Cavalry. Edmond T. Hulanicki of Chicago rose from a private to the rank of Captain in the 12th U.S. Heavy Artillery and his brother Captain T. C. Hulanicki commanded Battery L of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery.¹⁰⁹

During the winter of 1861, Hungarians, Bohemians, and numerous Slavs had organized a regular military company and besought the governor of the state to call them into service at the first moment of danger to the Union. French Canadians, Belgians, and Swiss were associated in the French Battalion.¹¹⁰

108 Cole, 279.

109 Poles of Chicago, 1837-1937, Pub. by Polish Pageant Inc., Chicago, Illinois, 1937, 2.

110 Pierce, B.L., A History of Chicago, Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y., 1937, II, 258.

The Irish were not to be outdone. In a week's time they organized in Chicago the 23rd regiment of Illinois, otherwise known as the Irish Brigade. Colonel James A. Mulligan, commanding this brigade was accepted outside the regular quota and mustered into service on June 5, 1861. Irish companies from Springfield and Rockford also tendered their services. The "Irish Legion" the 19th Infantry, was mustered into service at Chicago in the late summer of 1862.¹¹¹

As early as January the Scots, through their military organization, the Highland Guards, had offered their services to the government. Their contributions were the two so-called "Scotch Regiments" the 12th and 65th. Even the Israelites of Chicago were organizing. In 1862 within forty-eight hours they raised a company together with a fund of several thousand dollars to put it in the field. The Portuguese of Springfield and in Morgan County enrolled large numbers in the companies recruited in those regions.

The Swedes hastened to respond to Lincoln's call for defending the Union and enlisted in the service of their adopted country as eagerly as the most patriotic of her native born citizens. The great majority of Swedes volunteered for three years. Judging by the two all Swedish companies in the 43rd and 57th regiments, they were generally re-enlisted veterans.¹¹² All things considered, it would be safe to claim 1500 Swedes in the Illinois regiments.

¹¹¹ Cole, 280.

¹¹² Rockford Register, November 7, 1863.

In the fall of 1863 the first Illinois regiment of Negroes was finally authorized by the War Department. But failure to give them the same pay, and bounty, that was paid to white soldiers, prevented Negro enthusiasm from developing. As a result less than 2,000 colored troops were mustered into service, and these played little part in the fighting of this war.¹¹³

Thus we have seen how the prairies ablazed with patriotism at the firing of Fort Sumter and how the spirit of its citizens was mobilized to meet the exigencies of the Civil War. But then men do not always come at call, unless there is something in back of the call. There was something back of the call that made so prompt a response possible. That thing was latent love of country, and of good government. This love blazed into the spirit of sacrifice when the government was put in open peril.

113 Adjutant General Report, 1861-1866, I, 217, 223.

CHAPTER V

LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS, TWO MOST EMINENT AND ILLUSTRIOUS MEN OF ILLINOIS HELPED MOULD THE SPIRIT OF A FREE AND BRAVE PEOPLE

1. Slavery Agitation:- During the years of 1853-1857, there was great agitation in Illinois on the slavery question. The constitution of 1848, had abolished slavery, but there were in the state quite a number of free negroes. The "underground railroad" was in active operation and had been since 1835. The fugitive slave law passed by congress in 1850 was very obnoxious to many people and the underground railway was liberally patronized in the years '51, '52, and '53. On February 12, 1853, the legislature passed a law concerning free negroes and mulattoes. This law made it a crime to bring into the state a negro. Again if a negro came into the state and remained ten days, he was liable to arrest, and to be fined \$50.00. If he could not pay the fine he was sold to anyone who would pay the cost of the arrest and trial. This law was intended to serve two purposes; first to make it a crime to assist negroes into the state and in making their escape, and second to enable the southern slave catcher to get possession of his slave at the actual cost of arrest and trial.

2. A National Question:- Nor was the slave question at all pacified by the passage of the law repealing the Missouri Compromise. Mr. Douglas was the champion of the bill in congress and when he returned to Illinois he found many of his neighbors and friends actively and even bitterly opposed to the

measure. All over the state there were speeches, conventions, and resolutions denouncing it. An active newspaper war was everywhere waged against the measure. The bill was passed in May, 1854, and the congressional canvass was carried on through the summer months following. Douglas attempted to explain his action but in many places he was treated with scant courtesy by the disappointed people. There was a great disturbance in political parties and new parties were being formed.

3. Campaign of 1856:- National politics entered into the campaign of 1856. The Old Whig party was giving way to another and more vigorous organization--the Anti-Nebraska party. This new party later came to be known as the Republican party. The Democratic party put out its candidates at a convention held in Springfield, May 1, 1856. The Hon. W. A. Anderson was named as candidate for governor. The Anti-Nebraska party nominated Colonel Wm. H. Bissell.

The canvass was full of interest. The Republicans or Anti-Nebraskans looked hopefully forward to success, while the Democrats saw that their only chance was to keep their opponents from fusing their interests. The Anti-Nebraska people, or the Republicans as they were beginning to be called, were bitterly denounced as "Black Republicans," and as Abolitionists. Lincoln made about fifty speeches. The Republicans made very little headway in the south end of the State. Buchanan carried the electoral vote but the Republicans elected four of the nine congressmen, besides the State ticket. The legislature was Democratic.

4. Senatorial Campaign of 1858:- The contest between the candidates,

Lincoln and Douglas, for a seat in the United States Senate is not only the most memorable in the annals of Illinois, but involving great national issues at the time, assumed a scope beyond the mere personal success of the contestants, and an importance which arrested public attention from all parts of the Union. Douglas was the leading representative man of the democracy, and Lincoln being pitted against him, became the same for the republican party. It was called the battle of the giants, and results grew out of it, both as relates to the men concerned and the principles involved, the most momentous to the nation since its foundation was laid in the blood of the Revolution. To appreciate this contest fully it will be necessary to present a short view of the status of parties at the time.

The all-absorbing political question was that of slavery. Since the day that Whitney invented the cotton gin, slave labor had gradually become so profitable that the whole south favored the enlargement of its territorial area, and so far as the south, acting as a unit, could control the democratic party it was pro-slavery. To this was arrayed in sectional antagonism the new Republican party, which, while it professed to be anti-slavery, only so far as extending the territorial area of slavery, had through sympathy swept into its ranks as co-workers all the old abolition element of the country. Between these two, thus presenting a dangerous sectional issue, it was attempted to interpose the broad national doctrine of non-intervention, or as it was called, popular sovereignty, of which Mr. Douglas was the acknowledged champion. This principle, honestly applied to the organization of the territories, and fairly carried out, offered the only peaceable solution

for the fierce sectionalism of the period. But this plausible theory was practically subjected to the grossest abuses. Kansas and Nebraska had been organized upon it, but no sooner done than emigrant aid societies were formed throughout the north sending men armed with Sharp's rifles to locally organize the territory in the interests of freedom, while the slaveholders of the south with their emissaries pressed over the borders to effect the first organization in the interests of slavery.

Two parties with totally opposite views thus strove for supremacy in a new country where there was no legal restraint imposed upon them. While the south viewed popular sovereignty as the short cut to all the ends of abolitionism, the democratic party, of which, by its unity it was the controlling party at Cincinnati in national convention assembled, solemnly affirmed it as its creed. Mr. Buchanan, its nominee, in his letter of acceptance said "that the people of a territory, like those of a State, shall decide for themselves whether slavery shall or shall not exist within their limits." The nation gave its confidence to these fair promises only to be deceived. After Buchanan was elected to power, his cabinet mainly consisted of southern men. He threw off the mask, and in his manifesto to the New England memorialists, said: "slavery existed at that period--when the Kansas-Nebraska bill was passed--and still exists in Kansas under the constitution of the U.S. This point has at last been decided by the highest tribunal known to our laws (alluding to the Dred Scott decision.) How it could have been seriously doubted is a mystery."

The Kansas-Nebraska controversy had by this time assumed an entirely new

phase. At a convention held at Lecompton in October, 1857, the instrument historically known as the Lecompton constitution was adopted, which was subsequently endorsed by President Buchanan and his cabinet, and by the executive, submitted to congress, February 2, 1858, with the recommendation that the territory of Kansas be admitted as a state under its provisions.

Judge Douglas promptly took ground against this constitution, declaring that its mode of submission to the people was a "mockery and insult," and that he would resist it to the last as being illegal, unfair, and in contravention of his doctrine of popular sovereignty. Douglas, in a speech at Milwaukee, in 1860 says:

If you look into the Lecompton constitution you will find that the original document made Kansas a slave State, and then the schedule submitted another slavery clause to the people to vote for or against; if they voted for it, Kansas was a slave State, and if they voted against it still it was a slave state. When I reached Washington, three days before the meeting of congress, I went directly to the president, and had a talk with him upon this subject, in which I informed him, as a friend, not to send the constitution into congress for acceptance. I told him that it was a violation of every pledge we had made to the people; a violation of the fundamental principles of the democratic party, and a violation of the principles of all parties in all republican governments; because it was an attempt to force a constitution upon an unwilling people. He begged me not to say anything upon the subject until we should hear the news as to how the vote stood on the slavery clause. The vote, you remember, was taken on the slavery clause on the 21st of December, three or four weeks subsequent to this convention. I told the president that if he would withhold his recommendation until the vote was taken on that clause I would withhold my speech against the measure. He said he must recommend it in his message, and I

replied that if he did, I would denounce it the moment his message was read. At last the president became somewhat excited upon the subject, and he rose and said to me: 'Mr. Douglas, I desire you to remember that no democrat ever yet differed from an administration of his own choice without being crushed.' Then he added: 'Beware of the fate of Tallmadge and Rivera.' I rose and said: 'Mr. President, I wish you to remember that General Jackson is dead, sir.' From that day to this he and I have been trying the question whether General Jackson was dead. And one thing is certain--the people of Illinois decided in 1858 that James Buchanan was not General Jackson."114

The disagreement between Douglas and the administration of Buchanan, and its opposition to his reelection proved a benefit to him rather than a disadvantage. While a number of former friends, holding federal offices, were arrayed against him, the masses of the democratic party were the more firmly bound to his fortunes by the disruption.

At the republican state convention, held at the capitol, June 16, 1858, in which nearly every county was represented, James Miller was renominated as the candidate for state treasurer and Newton Bateman was selected, on the third ballot, for superintendent of public schools. But one man, who had justly earned the undisputed position of leader, was thought of for the highest place in view, and the convention, with entire unanimity, resolved that Abraham Lincoln was the first and only choice of the Republicans for the United States Senate. Such an endorsement, though without precedent, was not unexpected, and yet the honor came at a time when it was considered

114 Carr, C. E., Stephen A. Douglas, 1813-1861, A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1909, 188.

as of doubtful value. The contest of Judge Douglas with the Buchanan administration, over the Lecompton constitution, had brought him largely into sympathy with the opponents of the extension of slavery. William H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, had been dispatched east to feel the Republican pulse. He found that many of the leaders, while speaking favorably of Lincoln thought that it would be "good politics" to permit the reelection of Judge Douglas. Horace Greeley, in his New York Tribune, which had a large circulation in Illinois, not only endorsed the judge's course but had said of him personally, "no public man in our day has earned a nobler fidelity and courage;" and that if Lincoln's election was to be secured by a coalition between Republicans and "a little faction of postmaster, tide-waiters, and federal office-seekers, who for the sake of their dirty pudding, pretend to approve the Lecompton fraud," it would be viewed with regret by the Republicans of other states.¹¹⁵

This attitude of the leading paper of his party and of such men as Seward and Banks, at the opening of the campaign, was to Lincoln like the withdrawal from the field on the eve of battle of a tried battalion, relied upon to obtain the victory. Its dampening and dispiriting effect upon him was plainly to be seen, while it was correspondingly helpful and encouraging to Judge Douglas.

Mr. Lincoln, with unfailing intuition, saw that former positions must be exchanged for those of a more radical and far-reaching character. That

115 Barker, H. E., Abraham Lincoln, His Life In Illinois, M. Barrows Company, New York, 1940, 206.

a line must be drawn, upon one side or the other of which every one must stand, leaving no place for a third party, nor for any one who regarded the question of slavery merely as one of property rights and who cared not whether it was voted down or voted up by the people, as his opponent had declared his own sentiment to be in a speech on the Lecompton constitution.

Mr. Lincoln, with the greatest care and his best thought, prepared the address afterward delivered to the Republican convention, writing it in fragmentary parts on scraps of paper carried in his hat and afterward revised and copied at length.

Although so widely copied and commented upon, the following extract from the address is here given:

A house divided against itself can not stand. I believe this government can not endure permanently half-slave and half-free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved--I do not expect the house to fall--but I do expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new, North as well as South.¹¹⁶

Before delivering this speech, Lincoln submitted it to the judgment of his friends, not one of whom approved of it, except his law-partner. Indeed, the general opinion was strongly averse to the sentiment as expressed in the foregoing extract. With his usual self-reliance he rose and remarked:

116 Brockett, E. P., Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln, Including His Speeches, Philadelphia, Pa., 1865, 172.

"Friends, the time has come when these sentiments should be uttered; and if it is decreed that I shall go down because of this speech, then let me go down linked to the truth--let me die in the advocacy of what is just and right."¹¹⁷

The selection of Lincoln by the Republicans as their standard-bearer in this campaign was due no less to a desire to confer upon him what was regarded as a deserved promotion, than to the fact of his supposed willingness and ability to meet his distinguished competitor on the stump. If he was not able to cope successfully with the great senator, it would be useless for any man to make the attempt. And as Douglas had never shown any backwardness to meet any foeman in debate, it was generally concluded that the great issue between the two parties--of opposition to slavery extension on the one side and the advocates of the principle of non-intervention on the other was to be publicly fought out by them in the arena of joint debate. It was to be an intellectual combat, in which giants were the principles and the entire Nation spectators.

Such political discussions had been introduced in this State when it was admitted into the Union and had always been favorably regarded by the people. Unless a candidate at all accustomed to public speaking--and few others were selected, was able and willing to meet his opponent on the stump, his prospect of success was slim. The custom had been brought from Kentucky and was regarded as a necessity of the times. There were no daily and but few weekly

¹¹⁷ Ibid., 190.

newspapers and in those pioneer days, and in no other way could the people be so well informed and placed in possession of reliable current political information as this. In order that no candidate should have an opportunity of misleading his constituents and of making misstatements, it was insisted that both sides should be fairly heard at the same time.

As the election day drew near, field days were appointed, at which the candidates appeared, took the stand, and set forth their claims "by word of mouth." During the holding of the circuit-courts, the lawyers, nearly all of whom were politicians and good speakers, would deliver speeches on alternate nights. In this way Douglas had met Stuart, Browning, and Woodson, all of whom had been his competitors for congress, and also his present opponent.

Now although the reason for these joint discussions had mainly passed away through the multiplication of newspapers, both daily and weekly, and of magazines, and through the establishment of public libraries, there yet remained a feeling among the people that perhaps after all the best way to arrive at the merits of a political controversy was to hear the arguments of able leaders delivered in the presence of each other.

5. Lincoln and Douglas:- These two most eminent and illustrious men of Illinois and of the nation deserve a somewhat more extended sketch of their qualifications and abilities which is deemed proper to make before proceeding to detail their great contest for senatorial honors.

When the independence of the American republic was established, African slavery was tolerated as a local and temporary institution. It was in conflict with the moral sense, the religious convictions of the people and the

political principles on which the government was founded. But having been tolerated, it soon became an organized aggressive power, and later it became the master of the government. Conscious of its inherent weakness, it demanded and obtained additional territory for its expansion. First the great Louisiana Purchase, then Florida and then Texas. By the repeal in 1854 of the prohibition of slavery north of 36-30 known as the Missouri compromise, the slavery question became a leading one in American politics and in Illinois.

It shattered into fragments the old conservative party (Whig) with which Mr. Lincoln had theretofore acted. It divided the Democratic party, and new parties were organized upon issues growing directly out of the question of slavery. The leader of that portion of the Democratic Party which continued, for a time, to act with the slavery party, was Stephen A. Douglas, then representing Illinois in the U.S. Senate. He was a bold, ambitious, able man, and had thus far, been uniformly successful. He had introduced and carried through congress, against the most vehement opposition the repeal, of the law, prohibiting slavery, called the Missouri Compromise.

The issue having been now distinctly made between freedom and the extension of slavery into the territories, Lincoln and Douglas, the leaders of the Free Soil Party and Democratic parties became more than ever antagonized. The conflict between freedom and slavery now became earnest, fierce and violent, beyond all previous political controversies, and from this time on Lincoln plead the cause of liberty with an energy, ability and eloquence, which rapidly gained for him a national reputation. From this time on,

through the tremendous struggle, it was he who grasped the helm and led his party to victory. Conscious of a great cause, inspired by a generous love of liberty, and animated by the moral sublimity of his great theme, he proclaimed his determination, ever thereafter, "to speak for freedom, and against slavery until everywhere the sun shall shine, the rain shall fall, and the wind blow upon no man who goes forth to unrequitted toil."¹¹⁸

The great debates between Lincoln and Douglas, in 1858, were unquestionably, both with reference to the ability of the speakers and their influence upon opinion and events, the most important in the history of Illinois and the nation. No intent is made to do injustice to others, nor over-estimate their importance, when it is said that the speeches of Lincoln published, circulated and read throughout the free states, did more than any other agency in creating the public opinion, which prepared the way for overthrow of slavery. Lincoln's speeches were as philosophical, as able, as earnest as any and his manner had a simplicity and directness, a clearness of illustration, a plainness, better adapted than any other, to reach and influence the understanding and sentiment of the common people.

At the time of the memorable discussions both Lincoln and Douglas were in the full maturity of their powers. Douglas being forty-five and Lincoln forty-nine years old. Douglas had had a long training and experience as a popular speaker. On the stump and in Congress, and especially in the U.S. Senate, he had been accustomed to meet the ablest debators of the state and nation.

¹¹⁸ Cowen, B. R., Abraham Lincoln; an Appreciation by One Who Knew Him, R. Clarke and Co., Cincinnati, O., 1909, 161.

His manners were bold, vigorous, and aggressive. He was ready, fertile in resources, familiar with political history, strong and severe in denunciation, and he handled with skill, all the weapons of the dialectician. His iron will, tireless energy, united with physical and moral courage, and great personal magnetism, made him a natural leader, and gave him personal popularity.

Lincoln was also now a thoroughly trained speaker. He had contended successfully at the bar, in the legislature, and before the people, with the ablest men of the West, including Douglas, with whom he always rather sought than avoided a discussion. But he was a courteous and generous opponent, as is illustrated by the following beautiful allusion to his rival, made in 1856, in one of their joint debates. "Twenty years ago, Judge Douglas and I first became acquainted, we were both young then. He trifle younger than I. Even then, we were both ambitious, I, perhaps, quite as much as he. With me, the race of ambition has been a flat failure. With him, it has been a splendid success. His name fills the nation, and it's not unknown in foreign lands. I affect no contempt for the high eminence he has reached; so reached, that the oppressed of my species might have shared with me in the elevation. I would rather stand on that eminence than wear the richest crown that ever pressed a monarch's brow."¹¹⁹

We know, and the world knows, that Lincoln did reach that high, but far higher eminence, and that he did reach it in such a way that the "oppressed" did share with him in the elevation.

119 Ibid., 146.

Such were the champions who, in 1858, were to discuss, before the voters of Illinois, and with the whole nation as spectators, the political question then pending, and especially the vital question relating to slavery. It was not a single combat, but extended through a whole campaign.

Lincoln had been known as a public speaker since 1838, having been three times a presidential elector, in which capacity he canvassed the State for Harrison, Clay, and Fremont. Neither was he without experience as a debator, a kind of contest which he believed in and enjoyed. He had already measured swords with his rival, and each had thus received a taste of the other's metal. He was a born logician, and sought to reach the point of demonstration in speaking on leading public questions; but his controlling advantage in the present contest consisted in the fact of the sincerity of his belief and the earnestness and fearlessness with which he sought to enforce his convictions, that free labor was preferable to slave labor, and that slavery in itself was inherently wrong; at once appealing to the economic instincts and reaching the moral sense of the people.

In point of education and previous experience in debate, Douglas undoubtedly had the advantage. He had now been in congress fifteen years, and had frequently met in the intellectual arena Seward, Chase, Trumbull, Hale, and Fessenden, leading Republicans, and latterly Jefferson Davis, Toombs, Benjamin, Green, Mason, and Hunter, of his own party, on the Lecompton issue. For a controversy he was always prepared, and to be involved in one was ever to him to be in his native element. No man was better furnished with the weapons of debate or exhibited more skill in their use than he.

As a popular speaker, in the art of managing a mixed audience and in carrying off the honors of the hour, in his ability to bridge over or avoid hard places in an argument, and to make the most of his adversary's weak points, he was the superior to Mr. Lincoln or any of his compeers in the senate.

The contrast between the great champions physically was no less striking than that politically and intellectually. Lincoln was tall and lank and lean, while Douglas was short, round, and robust. The voice of Lincoln was sharp and thin, though of large compass, while that of his opponent was sonorous and full. Lincoln possessed an inexhaustible stock of anecdotes which he told admirably by way of illustration, but although humorous, did not possess that readiness of sparkling repartee which enabled Douglas to make pointed and happy turns of thought against an opponent. The Senator was always forcible, self-asserting, plausible, while Lincoln, though generally confining himself to the closest reasoning, rose at times to impassioned bursts of the highest eloquence.

6. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:- By the summer of 1858 Lincoln had become the recognized leader of the Republican party in Illinois while Douglas had for some time held that honor in the Democratic party. Mr. Douglas returned from Washington to make his canvass for re-election in July, 1858. After considerable correspondence Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas agreed to a joint discussion before the voters of Illinois. There were to be seven joint meetings--two districts, the one in which Chicago lay, and the one in which Springfield was situated, had already had joint discussions. The places agreed upon and the dates were as follows:

Ottawa, LaSalle County, August 21, 1858
 Freeport, Stephenson County, August 27, 1858
 Jonesboro, Union County, September 15, 1858
 Charleston, Coles County, September 18, 1858
 Galesburg, Knox County, October 7, 1858
 Quincy, Adams County, October 13, 1858
 Alton, Madison County, October 15, 1858.

The questions of discussion all related to slavery, and grew out of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the substitution therefor by the Democrats, in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, of the doctrine of non-intervention by congress with slavery in the territories, and leaving the people thereof "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States."¹²⁰ To this the Republicans were opposed, taking the ground that it was the duty of congress to prohibit the extension of slavery into supposed states. On the main question, the respective positions of the contestants, as stated by themselves at Alton, were as follows:

Mr. Lincoln said: "He (Douglas) contends that whatever community wants slaves has a right to have them. So they have if it is not wrong. He says that upon the score of equality, slaves should be allowed to go in a new territory like other property. This is strictly logical if there is no difference between it and other property. If it and other property are equal, his argument is entirely logical. But if you insist that one is wrong and the other right, there is no use to institute a comparison between right and wrong. You may turn over everything in the Democratic policy from beginning

120 Political Debates Between A. Lincoln and S. A. Douglas in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858 in Illinois, G. Haven Putnam, G. Putnam Sons and Co., N.Y., 1912, 206.

to end, whether in the shape it takes on the statute book, in the shape it takes in the Dred Scott Decision, in the shape it takes in conversation, or the shape it takes in short maxim-like-arguments--it everywhere carefully excludes the idea that there is anything wrong in it. That is the real issue. That is the issue that will continue in this country when these poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself shall be silent. It is the eternal struggle between these two principles--right and wrong--throughout the world. They are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time, and will ever continue to struggle. The one is the common right of humanity and the other the divine right of kings. It is the same principle in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says, 'You work and toil and earn bread, and I'll eat it.' No matter in what shape it comes, whether from mouth of a king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle."¹²¹

To which Douglas replied: "He (Lincoln) says that he looks forward to a time when slavery shall be abolished everywhere. I look forward to a time when each state shall be allowed to do as it pleases. If it chooses to keep slavery forever, it is not my business, but its own; if it chooses to abolish slavery, it is its own business--not mine. I care more for the great principle of self-government, the right of the people to rule, than I do for all the negroes in Christendom. I would not endanger the perpetuity of this

Union, I would not blot out the great inalienable rights of the white man for all the negroes that ever existed."¹²²

The supreme court, in the celebrated Dred Scott case, had decided that slaves being property, their owners had the right to take them to the territories the same as any other property and hold them as such; that congress transcended its power in the passage of the Missouri compromise, prohibiting slavery north of 36-30, and that "if congress itself could not do this, if it is beyond the powers conferred by the federal government, it must be admitted that it could not authorize a territorial government to exercise them." Douglas had endorsed this decision--Lincoln opposed it.

Under this opinion slavery already existed in Kansas, notwithstanding the expressed will of the people, and when the judge was asked to reconcile his doctrine of popular sovereignty in its practical workings with the decision, he was forced to take the position that slavery required protection by the adoption of police regulations, and that it could not exist if these were withheld by unfriendly legislation; thus practically conceding that it was in the power of territorial legislation to accomplish indirectly what the court had declared it had not the right to attempt directly. Of course the weak points on both sides were thoroughly exposed and ventilated.

As had been anticipated by Lincoln's friends, when they heard his speech on "the house divided against itself," it was boldly attacked and dissected by his watchful antagonist in his first speech at Chicago, and formed the objective point of his subsequent efforts. He charged that Lincoln had

committed himself to the position that there must be a uniformity of institutions of the several states, which would lead to consolidation and despotism, and with great force and vehemence insisted that according to Lincoln, the formation by our fathers of the Union out of states that were partly free and partly slave was in violation of the law of God, and as they could not thus exist, the proposition committed his opponent to the duty of going into the slave states and making them free.

These objections were pointed out to Lincoln when the speech was delivered, and it was insisted by his friends that to utter such a sentiment was to commit a political blunder. But it must be remembered that Judge Douglas had been a prominent candidate for the presidency, and that if he could hold his party together, every indication pointed toward his nomination and elevation to the executive chair in 1860. Keeping this fact in view, Lincoln uniformly answered, "Well, perhaps it was a mistake so far as the present canvass is concerned, but in my opinion it will develop in the course of its discussion such statements and admissions on the part of Douglas as will widen the gap which already exists between him and the Democrats of the southern states, and make his nomination and election as president impossible."¹²³ What the ultimate result would be upon himself he refrained from stating, if, indeed he had any opinion upon that point at that time. It was supposed by some, however, that a vivid conception of the possibilities of his own future success was not excluded from the view.

Lincoln's defense of his "divided-house" proposition was that our

fathers left the institution of slavery in the course of its ultimate extinction; that their policy was to prohibit its spread into territories where it had not before existed; that this policy was abandoned by the repeal of the Missouri compromise, thus placing it on the new basis not only of perpetuity but also of practically unlimited extension.

The first joint discussion was held at Ottawa. It was previously agreed that each discussion should occupy three hours, that the speaker should alternate in the opening and the close. The opening speech to occupy one hour, the reply one and one-half hours, and the close half an hour. The meetings were held in the open air, for no hall could hold the vast crowds which attended.

The crowd in attendance was estimated at 12,000; the speakers were met at the depot on their arrival by their friends, with large processions headed by brass bands, firing of cannon, and the fluttering of flags, banners, and emblematic devices from the windows and house-tops on every street. Judge Douglas led off in a speech of one hour, Lincoln replying in an hour and a half, and the judge closing in thirty minutes. The admirers of each were enthusiastic in their demonstrations, Mr. Lincoln at the conclusion of the meeting, being seized by a party of friends and borne off through the crowd on their shoulders.

The side issues brought into the discussion attracted as much interest as did the main question. These were numerous and interesting, and owing to greater care and prudence were generally turned by Lincoln in his own favor. Douglas charged, for instance, that his opponent was present at the Lovejoy-

Codding meeting at Springfield, in October, 1854, and read a set of resolutions which he alleged Lincoln helped to frame, when, in fact, the latter was not present at the meeting, and the resolutions alleged to have been passed by it were, in fact, adopted at a meeting held in Kane County. Of course, no little capital was made out of these erroneous statements.

In the first debate at Ottawa, Douglas asked Lincoln eight questions which the latter did not answer, at least fully, till the joint meeting at Freeport. At Freeport, before an immense throng of listeners, Lincoln was the first speaker. He at once proceeded to answer the eight questions propounded to him by his opponent at Ottawa, relating to his position on the fugitive-slave law, the admission of new states into the Union, the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, the prohibition of the slave-trade between the different states, the prohibition of slavery in the territories, and the acquisition of new slave-territory. He then in turn propounded four interrogatories to the judge. One of these was as follows: "Can the people of a United States territory in any lawful way, against the wish of any citizen of the United States, exclude slavery from its limits prior to the formation of a state constitution?"¹²⁴

If Mr. Douglas wishes still to uphold the doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty he will be forced to say, "Yes," if he says, "No," then his doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty has burst as a bubble. If Douglas answers in the affirmative he runs counter to the decision of the supreme court which has so

124 Sparks, E. E., The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858, State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois, 1905, 284.

greatly delighted the slave holders of the south. If he says, "Yes," every pro-slavery southerner will be ready to read him out of the Democratic party. If he says, "No," he will lose the senatorship, for those that are pleading Douglas' cause argue that Douglas ought to be sustained because he stands for abiding by the will of the people as expressed in regularly constituted means for such expression.

Douglas was truly midway between two great dangers, but summoning all his native skill in the art of debate he answered: "I answer emphatically, as Mr. Lincoln has heard me answer a hundred times from every stump in Illinois, that, in my opinion the people of the territory can by lawful means, exclude slavery from their limits prior to the formation of a state constitution. The people have the lawful means to introduce it or exclude it, as they please, for the reason that slavery cannot exist a day, or an hour, anywhere, unless it is supported by local police regulation."¹²⁵

This position being in conflict with the Dred-Scott decision, which he had always upheld and defended, was heralded over the southern states as evidence that he had been two-faced on the subject, contending for the extension of slavery under the decision, and for its exclusion under his new doctrine.

The policy of propounding the question which had brought forth the answer had been submitted by Lincoln to some confidential friends, who advised against it. They even besieged his room the day before the discussion

came off and insisted that the answer of his opponent would be such as to affect his fortunes in the State, without regard to the South, and urged him not to risk the interrogatory, saying in chorus, "if you do you can never be senator." But Lincoln, persisting in his determination to force an answer, replied, "Gentlemen, I am killing larger game; if Douglas answers, he can never be president, and the coming battle of 1860 is worth a hundred of this."¹²⁶

This Freeport doctrine greatly pleased the people of the north where they believed in squatter sovereignty as a cardinal principle of democracy. But in the south the leaders were very bitter toward Douglas because this Freeport doctrine was counter to the Dred Scott decision. Judah P. Benjamin, United States senator from Louisiana denounced Douglas in the United States senate. Douglas was deposed from the chairmanship of the committee on territories, which he had held for eleven years, and the party was split into Buchanan Democrats and Douglas Democrats.

At Jonesboro, September 15, 1858, the audience was not so great, only about 2000 being present, but the meetings at Charleston, three days later, and at Galesburg, October 7, Quincy, October 13, and at Alton, October 15, 1858, were all attended by large and enthusiastic crowds. In addition to the joint discussions, both candidates made speeches at mass meetings and barbecues, in nearly every county in the State, sometimes the appointments clashing, when nothing but the intervention of the two champions prevented a collision.

In addition to the immense mass of hearers, reporters, from all the principal newspapers in the country, attended, so that the morning after each debate, the speeches were published, and eagerly read by a large part, perhaps a majority of all the voters of the United States. The attention of the American people was thus arrested, and they watched with intense interest, and devoured every argument of the champions.

Each of these great men, at that time, sincerely believed he was right. Douglas' ardor, while in such a conflict, would make him think, for the time being, he was right, and Lincoln argued for freedom against the extension of slavery with the most profound conviction that on the result hung the fate of his country. Lincoln had two advantages over Douglas. He had the best side of the questions and the best temper. He was always good-humored, always had an apt story for illustration, while Douglas sometimes, when pressed, was irritable. Douglas carried away the most popular applause, but Lincoln made the deeper and more lasting impression.

It was often observed, during this canvass, that while Douglas was sometimes greeted with the loudest cheers, when Lincoln closed, the people seemed solemn and serious, and could be heard, all through the crowd, gravely and anxiously discussing the topics on which he had been speaking.

Douglas secured the immediate object of the struggle, but manly bearing, the vigorous logic, the honesty and sincerity, the great intellectual power exhibited by Mr. Lincoln, prepared the way, and, two years later, secured his nomination and election to the presidency. It is a touching incident, illustrating the patriotism of both these statesmen, that, widely as they differed,

and keen as had been their rivalry, just as soon as the life of the republic was menaced, by treason, they joined hands, to shield and save the country they loved.

Lincoln in all his state papers and speeches during the years of the Civil War, never found words of bitterness, no denunciations. When others railed, he railed not again. He was always dignified, magnanimous, patient, considerate, manly and true. His duty was ever performed "with malice toward none, with charity for all," and with fairness in the right as God gives us to see the right. Lincoln was never a demagogue. He respected and loved the people, but never flattered them. No man ever heard him allude to his humble life and manual labor, in a way to obtain votes. None knew better than he, that splitting rails did not qualify a man for public duties.

He realized painfully the defects of his education, and labored diligently and successfully to supply his deficiencies. He had no equal as a talker in social life. His conversation was fascinating and attractive. He was full of wit, humor, and anecdote, and, at the same time, original, suggestive, and instructive. There was in his character a singular mingling of mirthfulness and melancholy.

Douglas was a man not only intelligently great, but gifted with a mind that was extraordinarily active. He was forever knocking over the paper houses and pasteboard castles which the professional politicians of his party were erecting for his benefit. And he did so because his mind was of that practical nature which rejected everything and all things that would not survive the severest test and crushing pressure of fixed and imperative

principle.

He was remarkable for the almost instantaneous judgments he formed and expressed upon all propositions; he never wavered; he rarely doubted; and never changed his convictions.

It has been popular at times, with the enemies of Mr. Douglas to charge him with truckling to the slave interests. Mr. Douglas truckle to any one! It was impossible for him to do so. He despised slavery. He was a freeman in the fullest sense of the word. He resisted the aggressive claims of slavery, and with equal power the aggressive aims of the abolitionists. He could not unite with either wholly, because he held both to be wrong. He stood manfully besides slavery when slavery claimed what the constitution granted it. He stood manfully, with the abolitionists in resisting slavery when it demanded more than the constitution granted it. But he would stand by neither slavery or abolitionism where they sought to go beyond the constitution. Had slavery been contended with what the constitution granted it, it would have been an easy task to crush out abolitionism. Had abolitionism sought only to confine slavery by the limits of the constitution it would have been as easy to crush out the wild advocates of extra constitutional privileges.

Mr. Douglas labored to bring either of these adverse factions to a constitutional theory and practice, and would have succeeded, had he not been betrayed, ever in the hour of success, by men who were ready to sacrifice themselves and country for the wretched satisfaction of ruining him. Mr. Douglas never yielded one iota of principle to slavery. His intellect

forbade it. Douglas was a patriot, and his patriotism his devotion to the flag, and home and integrity of the Union, did not date their birth with the commencement of the Civil War. Mr. Douglas, the moment the Civil War commenced, promptly visited the President, tendering him all the aid he could render. We all know how hostile a large body of our own people were to the war. We all know that had Senator Douglas hesitated; had he played false to himself and his country; had he called on the disloyal and disaffected to resist the war, the campaign would have commenced perhaps in Illinois.

In this case, as in all others, his conduct was governed by principle; that principle he had expressed in these bold words: "Patriotism emanates from the heart; it fills the soul; inspires the whole man with a devotion to his country's cause; and speaks and acts in the same language. The Union wants no friends, acknowledges the fidelity of no citizen who, after war is declared, condemns the justice of her cause and sympathizes with her enemies. All such are traitors in their hearts, and it only remains for them to commit some overt act, for which they may be dealt with according to their deserts."¹²⁷

These words were not uttered when Fort Sumter was fired upon. These words were uttered when the brave and gallant old veteran Taylor occupied the east bank of the Rio Grande, and a miserable faction in Congress was disputing.

The senatorial contest came to a close on the second of November, 1858 and resulted in the election of a majority of members of the legislature

127 Johnson, Allen, Stephen A. Douglas: A Study in American Politics,
McMillin Co., New York, 1908, 204.

pledged to the support of Douglas for senator. Douglas once more succeeded, under the existing apportionment in carrying the legislature--the senate standing fourteen to eleven and the house forty to thirty-five in his favor. But there was a more important and far-reaching effect, and one which had been partially foreseen by the victorious contestant. His utterances during the canvass had cleft the democracy of the nation in two. Thus not only rendering possible the nomination and election of his great antagonist in 1860, but effectually precluding the possibility of a united democracy in favor of armed secession.

The contest between Douglas and Lincoln had attracted the attention of the entire country, north and south, east, and west. Mr. Lincoln was defeated but not cast down. It was only one short year till the national canvass would demand attention of the whole people. Lincoln wrote to a friend shortly after the November election as follows: "The fight must go on. The cause of civil liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one or one hundred defeats. Douglas had the ingenuity to be supported in the late contest, both as the best means to break down and to uphold the slave interest. No ingenuity can keep these antagonistic elements in harmony long. Another explosion will soon come."

Douglas naturally felt proud of his victory. After a short rest following the close of the campaign, he made a tour of the southern states; but nothing he could say or do could pacify the administration.

CHAPTER VI

THE ILLINOIS MARTIAL SPIRIT WAS SUCCESSFULLY MOBILIZED FOR THE CIVIL WAR AS SHOWN BY THIS STUDY

Many books have been written upon the part taken in this great civil war by the soldiers from Illinois. In all, our State furnished 260,000 men for the conflict. This places Illinois in the fourth rank, for, the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio excepted, she furnished more troops than any other. But in 1860 each of these States had many more inhabitants, and in proportion to her population then, Illinois furnished a greater number of soldiers than any other State except Kansas. One is almost tempted to claim that the war could not have been won without the aid of the brave men from Illinois, but this would be unfair to other loyal States. It required the united efforts of all, and every State deserves praise and honor. Illinois was peculiarly fortunate in furnishing many illustrious leaders.

The part Illinois took in the war of the rebellion was no less patriotic than glorious. As has already been shown, in the enlistment of volunteers, the State was nearly always in advance of the quota allotted to her by the general government. No draft was found necessary in 1863; and only 3538 men had to be secured by the compulsory process in 1864; and but 55 citizens purchased exemption by commutation, a smaller number than any other state except Kansas.

Nearly all the Illinois regiments were employed in the South and

Southwest. Wherever the heaviest fighting was to be done, there was found the brave men from the Prairie State. The first in the deadly charge and the last to retreat or surrender. The first battle in which any considerable number of Illinois troops were engaged was that of Belmont, Nov. 7, 1861, under General Grant. All the troops engaged were from Illinois except the 7th Iowa. General John A. McClernan commanded a brigade, as did Colonel Henry Dougherty, of the 22nd regiment, who was severely wounded and captured.

At the battle of Fort Donelson, Feb. 15, 1862, the first signal success of the war, the commander-in-chief, General Grant; General McClernan who commanded the first division; seven commanders of brigades, namely: Colonels Wm. H. L. Wallace, Richard J. Oglesby, Wm. R. Morrison--wounded, Leonard F. Ross, John McArthur, John Cook, and Isham N. Haynie; and Chief-of-Staff Colonel J. D. Webster, were from Illinois; as were also 19 of the 36 infantry regiments engaged; besides batteries B--Taylor's, and D--McAllister's of the 1st, and D--Dresser's and E--Schwartz's of the 2nd Illinois Artillery; and 4 companies of the 2nd--Colonel Silas Noble, and the 4th--Colonel T. L. Dickey--Cavalry, and Birge's Sharpshooters.

The splendid record made by the volunteers from Illinois could not have been accomplished, however, but for their gallant and able leadership. Illinois gave to the Nation and world not only the illustrious Lincoln, but the great commander-in-chief, General Grant, who led her armed hosts to final victory. Eleven other of the major-generals of volunteers were credited to Illinois, namely: John Pope, John A. McClernan, Stephen A. Hurlbut, Benjamin M. Prentiss, John M. Palmer, Richard J. Oglesby, John A. Logan, John M.

Schofield, Napoleon B. Buford, Wesley Merrit, Benjamin H. Grierson, and Giles A. Smith. To award to each of these gallant leaders his just need of praise would be impossible without detail; to select a chosen few for special eulogy would be invidious.

To confine the summary of this report to the part taken by Illinois in the war to a recital of the meritorious services of her brave volunteers, would be as incomplete as it would be unjust, to that portion of her citizens who, for personal, domestic, or official reasons, did not go to the war and who might be properly classified as the "stay-at-homes."

It was just as essential to the success of the Union cause that trade should be carried on, manufacturers continued, and that civil and quasi-military offices should be loyally filled and faithfully administered, as it was that armies should be recruited and equipped for the struggle in the field. Many of those who would have distinguished themselves in the military service and would have shared with others in the renown of their heroic achievements, wisely and nobly decided to perform their duties as public officers or private citizens in their several stations at home.

The backbone of the Union army was the unfaltering support it received from the loyal people who helped to raise and maintain it; who followed it with their sympathy and aid; who in fact furnished the sinews of the war and made its glorious success possible. To counteract the adverse influences of the disloyal element, which was ever active and untiring; to uncover and defeat their secret machinations; to respond to the frequent calls of the sanitary and christian commissions; and to keep brightly burning the flame

of patriotism on every home altar--these were the claims and demands which were continually pressing upon the time, purse, and devotion to the Union of the "stay-at-homes."

As soon as news had been received of the engagement at Fort Donelson, the governor and state officers visited the brave men on the battlefield, not only for the purpose of rejoicing with the volunteers over the first great victory of the Union arms, but also, and chiefly, to look after and care for the sick and wounded. It had been long seen before this that the facilities of the war department were inadequate to the proper care of the sick and disabled soldiers of so vast and hastily-equipped an army. To alleviate the suffering and reduce the mortality consequent upon the imperfect methods of the government, supplementary organizations, sanitary commissions, both national and state, were formed. Through the unwearied zeal of these efforts, large quantities of medical and surgical as well as other supplies were collected and distributed among the wounded and suffering, both in hospitals and camps. Devoted, self-sacrificing, courageous women volunteered their services as nurses and nobly performed their part, not only by the couch of pain in the hospitals, but even on the battlefield.

Auxiliary sanitary associations and soldiers aid-societies were formed, and fairs held in aid of the work in nearly every county in the State, the citizens responding with great liberality to all of the many calls made upon them. The labors of the State Sanitary Commission were of incalculable value. It formed the connecting link between the needy, suffering soldier and those dear to him at home. In his privations it brought solace and not

infrequently its ministrations called him back to life from the brink of the grave. Thousands were saved to their families and country through this instrumentality, who but for the assistance thus rendered would have been sacrificed. They, wasted and bleeding from wounds, were met returning by warm hearts and restored to home and health. Those incapacitated for service were furloughed or discharged and sent home to their families and friends. Their papers were properly made out and their pay collected and sent to them--over \$300,000 passing in this way through the hands of the commission. They were lodged on their way in Soldier's homes and were supplied with meals, rations, and clothing, and furnished with transportation when able to travel.

The Chicago Commission was organized Oct. 17, 1861. Its principal officers and self-sacrificing managers were Isaac Newton Arnold, Mark Skinner, Ezra Butler McCagg, William Hubbard Brown, Dr. Ralph N. Isham, E. W. Blatchford, John W. Foster, James Ward, Cyrus Bentley, Benjamin B. Wright Raymond, Ira G. Munn, Wesley Munger, Jabez Kent Botsford, James B. Bradwell, Charles Goodrich Hammond, and Thomas Butler Bryan. The service rendered by these societies and kindred organizations were second only to that of our immense armies, which they supplemented.

Soldier's homes and relief associations and hospitals were established, and agents appointed. Immense sums of money and large quantities of supplies were collected, partly by direct contribution and partly through sanitary fairs and other agencies--the total aggregating \$1,056,192, of which \$411,027 was in cash. This enormous fund was administered with rigid economy and scrupulous fidelity, being applied, almost in its entirety, to the

relief of sick and wounded soldiers.

In 1863, was also formed, in Chicago, the Ladies Relief Society to care for the families of soldiers. It was managed by Mrs. Abraham H. Hoge, Mrs. Edward I. Tinkham, C. A. Lamb, and Mrs. Henry D. Smith. Another association of the "stay-at-homes" was the Christian Commission, at the head of which, in Chicago, were John V. Farwell, Tuthull King, Benjamin F. Jacobs, Dwight L. Moody, Samuel P. Farrington, James L. Reynolds, and Phineas L. Underwood. Through this branch, \$139,019 in cash, stores, and publications, were distributed. The branch at Peoria distributed \$54,863, and that at Springfield, \$33,756.

But the efforts of patriotic citizens to mitigate the horrors of war and alleviate distressed soldiers were not confined to any one city, or town. In every county either branch associations existed or fairs were held, and loyal men and women gave from their own home store-house the best they had, and all that could be spared to minister to the wants of their husbands and fathers, their sons, brothers, and neighbors in the field. It was a day of willing sacrifices and hearty offerings upon the altar of their country's liberty and unity.

The "stay-at-homes," in addition to the societies previously mentioned, formed another organization totally dissimilar to these in its aims and methods, but which wielded a mighty influence for good in its own chosen field. It was the secret political order known as the Union League of America, and had for its object countervailing results against the efforts of the secret orders of southern sympathizers. It came into existence in the

summer of 1862, in Tazewell County, and rapidly spread over this and other states, attaining the proportions of a national organization within a year. In 1864, it embraced 1300 councils and had a membership of 175,000. Colonel George H. Harlow, afterward secretary of state, was one of its chief promoters, and for many years grand secretary of the Illinois council. The order still exists, though in a modified form.

The favorable influence of the loyal press has already been mentioned and cannot be too strongly emphasized. Many of those who became distinguished as editors and writers, gained their first laurels as war correspondents of leading daily papers. Among those in Illinois, who attained a well-earned reputation as being one of the ablest, was Joseph K. C. Forrest. He was a great friend of Governor Yates, who honored him by appointing him a member of his staff with the rank of colonel. He was an entertaining and brilliant writer.

The universally conceded influence of song upon public sentiment first found recognition in the historic saying of Andrew Fletcher, of Saltoun, two centuries ago, "give me the making of the ballads and I care not who makes the laws of a nation." In no single direction, perhaps, were the contributions of Illinoisans to the success of the war more powerful and conspicuous than in that of the songs of the war furnished by two of her citizens. "The Battle-Cry of Freedom," "Just Before the Battle, Mother," and "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching," were composed by George F. Root who was an esteemed and influential citizen of Chicago. "Marching Through Georgia," "Kingdom Coming," and "Brave Boys are They," were the inspired

strains of Henry Clay Work, who at the time and for many years afterward was also a resident of Chicago.

A confederate general, a few days after the surrender of Lee, on hearing these and other songs for the first time, sung by a Union quartette, exclaimed, "Gentlemen, if we'd had your songs, we'd have licked you out of your boots. Who couldn't have marched or fought with such songs?" Another one remarked: "I shall never forget the first time I heard 'Rally Round the Flag.' T'was a nasty night during the 'Seven-days Fight,' I was on picket, when just before taps, some fellow on the other side struck up that song and others joined in the chorus. Tom B. sung out, "Good heavens Cap., what are those fellows made of? Here we've licked them six days running, and now on the eve of the seventh they're singing 'Rally Round the Flag.' I tell you that song sounded to me like the 'knell of doom' and my heart went down into my boots, and it has been an up-hill fight with me ever since that night."

It is stated that after the battle of Stone's River a great many of officers had become discouraged and being opposed to the proclamation of emancipation, tendered their resignations. A few days afterward a glee-club visited them from Chicago and they heard the new song "The Battle-Cry of Freedom," and the effect was little short of miraculous. It rang through the camp like wild-fire, inspiring fresh courage, and hope and enthusiasm. Day and night, from every tent in lusty harmony might be heard the chorus:

The Union forever, hurrah! boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitor, up with the Stars;
While we rally round the flag, boys, rally once again,
Shouting the battle-cry of freedom.

And thus through these songs, simple in melody but powerful in their appeal to the patriotic soul, the voice of Illinois was heard in every camp throughout the army--in the swamps of Virginia, on the sand-hills of Arkansas, along the bayous of the delta of the Mississippi, upon the mountains of Tennessee and Georgia, recalling to the minds of the boys in blue, the principles which they were risking their lives to maintain, and inciting their loyal hearts to new acts of valor. They not only brought fresh cheer to the troops on tented fields, but stirred the patriotism and nerved the loyal heart at home. At every Union meeting, whether it was to recruit the army, to organize fresh bodies of troops, to raise funds for war purposes, or arouse enthusiasm at political meetings, that song and others, especially "Marching Through Georgia," and "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching," were sung by the entire audience, with electrical effect. Thus in brief has been given a glance only at the part borne by Illinois in the great war of the rebellion.

No battles were fought in Illinois. But we cannot say that no blood was shed within her territory during the Civil War. The public mind was much disquieted. The bitterest feelings often existed between neighbors who, previous to the outbreak of hostilities, were the best of friends. It was no uncommon thing to see people attend public gatherings armed with large revolvers. The Knights of the Golden Circle influenced some of the soldiers home on furlough not to return, and the provost-marshal was not able to gather up all these delinquents. They often resisted the marshal and small bodies of delinquents and Knights would often scour the country

usually at night and threaten the loyal people with death for informing on them. In Scott and Greene Counties the threats, and often defiance of law became unbearable, and Governor Yates was asked to send a company of soldiers to restore a semblance of loyalty to the government.

At a place on Panther's Creek, in the northwest corner of Macoupin County, Knights and delinquent soldiers gathered to the extent of two or three hundred. They had large quantities of arms, ammunition, and provisions and presented a formidable appearance. The Knights of the Golden Circle, whose objects were political rather than military, formed a rally point for many of the disaffected and for all southern sympathizers. It had no active policy beyond discouraging enlistments and influencing elections. As compared with the unwaveringly loyal organization--the Union League--which opposed it, it was insignificant in respect of both numbers and influence.

While no startling revelations have been made, many acts of patriotism of worthy men of ambition for the state and nation have been brought to remembrance and should add pride to the heart of every son of Illinois. The memory of their heroic deeds and patriotism is indelibly stamped upon the hearts of our people. It was not the purpose of this study to extol the deeds of the men of Illinois who took part in the Civil War one against the other but to point to the many fine qualities of those men of the nation who were the citizens of Illinois and show how they helped mould the spirit of the people of Illinois for the Civil War. The following statements constitute a summary and contain the final conclusion.

The national call that made Abraham Lincoln President-elect of the

United States was the signal to the South for dissolution of the Union. Between that date and the date of inauguration events moved rapidly and Lincoln officially was powerless to act yet. He began to lay plans for future activity and sought the advice not only of the national leaders of his party, but also of the newly elected State officials of Illinois, his long known friends. Since the new State administration took office in January, 1861, and since Lincoln was closely associated with these officers, certainly their expressions could be taken as indices foreshadowing the policies of the new administration of the nation.

The inaugural address of Governor Yates was prepared in consultation with party leaders and explicitly declared the supremacy of the constitution. It as firmly denied the right of secession and pointed out that, if necessary force should be employed to maintain these principles. Regarding the question of slavery his address was very similar to the inaugural address of Lincoln as well as his other expressions regarding that issue. President Lincoln's call for troops was more than answered by Illinois. Governor Yates upon his own authority largely acted as special secretary of war during the period of inactivity of Cameron and in some respects until the process of military centralization was practically completed in 1863.

He took responsibility for recruiting, the equipping and at times forwarding of troops. During the first two years of the war, Governor Yates spent considerable time making sure that the state was well defended and supplying the troops of Illinois who were enlisting to save the Union. Thus Illinois, perhaps the most strategic State in the northwest, by the action

of its prominent leaders and sturdy citizens threw its tremendous influence upon the side of the Union. Although its importance in winning the war and saving the Union and the Constitution cannot be estimated accurately, contemplation of the problem leads the student to wonder whether the Union ever could have won had Illinois supported the South or maintained a state of neutrality.

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The first step in pursuing this study was the consultation of bibliography aids and the preparation of a tentative bibliography. This was followed by an intensive study of the period to be covered as treated by secondary authorities. A survey of special works in the field assisted in a better formulation of the outline. The sources were then investigated. The Newberry Library, Chicago Public Library, and the Chicago Historical Library were used extensively.

Several days were spent in Springfield, Illinois working in the Illinois Historical Society, the Archives and the Illinois Adjutant General's office at the Armory. This added some unpublished material, but not as much as was expected.

The most valuable manuscript collections consulted were the YATES MSS, in the Illinois State Library, the ELIHU R. WASHBURN MSS, a transcript of the J. C. CONKLING PAPERS in the possession of the Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois. In the State Archives at the Illinois State Armory, Springfield, Illinois are deposited records of the Adjutant General's Office of Illinois for the Civil War Years. The most significant diaries and memoirs used were those of ORVILLE H. BROWNING and GUSTAVE KOERNER. In addition, the writer consulted many regimental histories and numerous articles pertinent to this study.

Newspapers form a source of inestimable value in writing Illinois History. For any approximately full or continuous record it is only through them that a story may be pieced together. For a complete bibliography of Illinois newspapers, as well as for additional data on those here treated, see Scott, T. W., NEWSPAPERS, and PERIODICALS OF ILLINOIS, 1814-1879, Springfield, Illinois, published by Trustees of the Illinois Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois, 1910. Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library Vol. 6. Files in the Chicago Historical Library have been utilized where possible. The following issues of various Illinois Newspapers and periodicals and reports were used for the Civil War period in Illinois:

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